

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

The Whole Truth

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The Future has Arrived With The Digital Divide

PASTORS AND ELDERS CONFERENCE

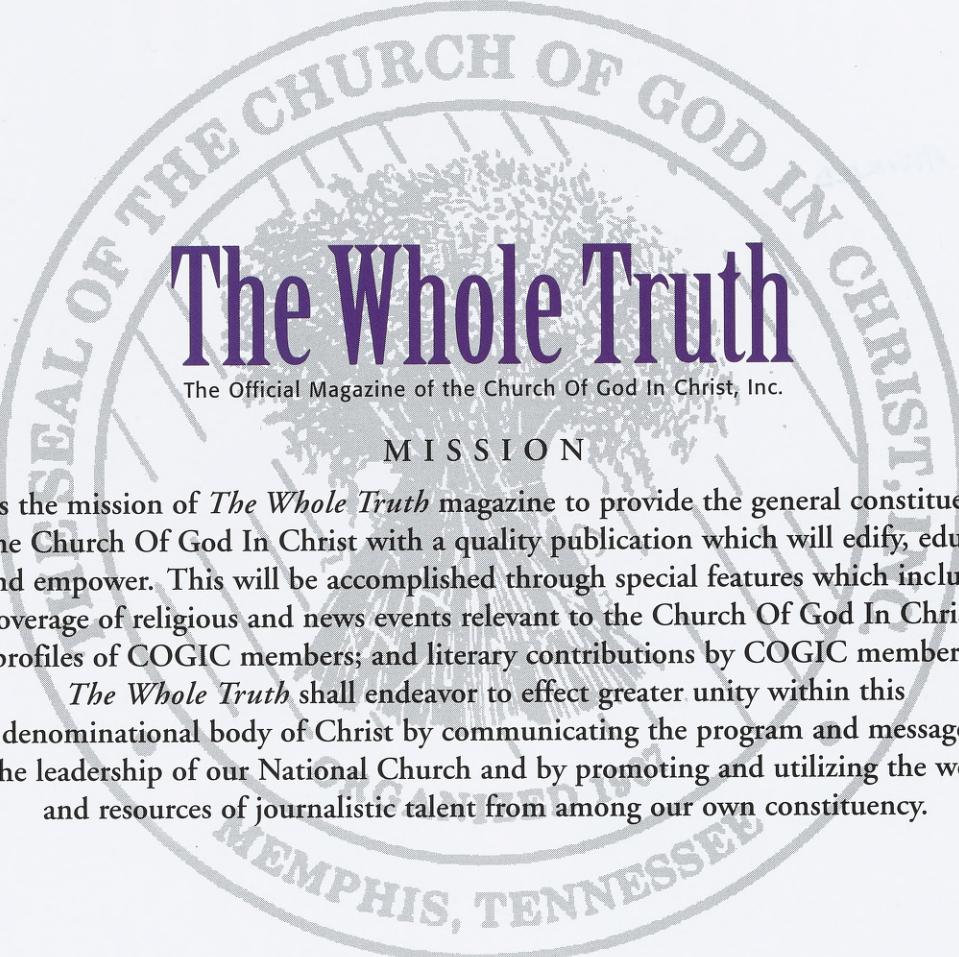
Good to Great: Pastors Learn Lessons in Leadership,
Unwind at National Conference

THE MORTGAGE BURNING

NATIONAL LOYALTY
DAY GOAL OF \$2 MILLION

COGIC PUBLISHING REORGANIZING





The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members.

The Whole Truth shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

The Whole Truth is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth*'s editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth*'s archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.



Digital Divide Being Conquered



Baltimore, Maryland. The saints went to Baltimore, Maryland to attend the Bishops' Conference. In fact, that week was not only used for the gathering of the Church Of God In Christ Bishops, but also for the commission working hard to conquer the digital divide. From all over the nation and from every department and ministry of the Church Of God In Christ, representatives came to report on the progress they were making to provide to set up their departments. At the University of Maryland, in an ultra modern technological facility, the Elder James Smith called the Saints to order. Over the next two days, training and support were given to those in attendance.

The Reverend Carl Payne, Pastor of Carter Memorial Church Of God In Christ, welcomed the delegates to the University of Maryland. His church is one of the founding partners along with

the University in the computer laboratory at the University. The Elder Payne told the visiting delegates, "We'd like to think that this laboratory is a part of Carter Memorial Church Of God In Christ. I and a few others, in relationship to the University, put this wonderful facility together." After he finished, the Elder James Smith, Executive Administrator to the Presiding Bishop, Los Angeles office, greeted the delegates. He apprised the delegates that he was aware of the hard work and the dedication they were giving to conquering the digital divide. He commented how the Church Of God In Christ is depending upon those few assembled in the room to complete their assignments. It would mean so much to have our website completed and every department and auxiliary and unit of the Church linked together and operating on the website for the common good of the Saints around the world. Completion of the website means greater service, ministry and opportunity to



demonstrate to people everywhere that the Church Of God In Christ has arrived at the digital age.

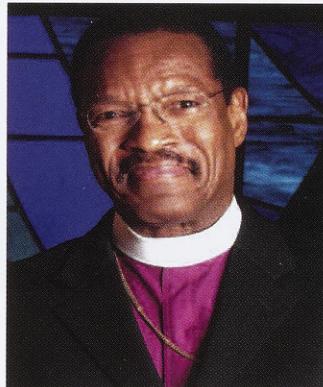
Presiding Bishop Charles Blake, Sr. went into the computer laboratory and welcomed all the delegates. He spoke encouraging words about the completion of this major project. Bishop Blake is a visionary, and his vision for conquering the digital divide means that every household that has a computer can potentially be impacted by the Church Of God In Christ. It is a two way street because as the world looks into our website, the Church Of God In Christ can in turn embrace them. This new age of ministry and information technology joined together brings new hope and a universal message of peace and Pentecost wherever the signal is found. He spoke strongly about everybody completing their assignments and hopefully by the time of the Convocation, there will be a great rejoicing of the completion of the task. He didn't stay long, but he was there long enough to motivate and to reassure all the listeners that this vision is at our grasp.

Mrs. Lisa Morgan, Chief Administrator of the digital divide program meticulously gave time and attention to the situation. She brought a host of contracted professionals and loyal church members to give help, answer questions and demonstrate how the digital divide is going to work. Her tireless efforts are being rewarded as unit after unit is coming online. Many times those who labor

in the background are not appreciated and the efforts they do are overlooked. In the case of the establishment of our Church Of God In Christ website, there are a few names that will forever be mentioned as those who pioneered the effort with Bishop Blake.

On the following day many stayed over and technical support, questions, and demonstrations on every level of completing the digital assignment were done. The meeting in Baltimore will be the source of great technological advancement in the life of the Church. One of the coming major advancements will be the COGIC Stores. The union of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing House and the Church Of God In Christ Bookstore into an up-to-date, digitally effective operation will bring new curriculum, product lines and information to the Saints everywhere. Brother

John Daniels, Chairman of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing Board, and many others are working to unveil this newly innovated ministry. Other departments such as the AIMs, Women's Department, and other church organizational departments will have presence on the COGIC website. Take a look at www.cogic.org and link up the COGIC Stores, the video presentations for prayer, the statements of our Presiding Bishop, and the many other activities you will find listed for the Saints benefits. The Church Of God In Christ is yet the flagship of Pentecost. However, it is moving forward and advancing the cause of Christ digitally. ☩



Bishop Charles Blake, Sr.

The Whole Truth

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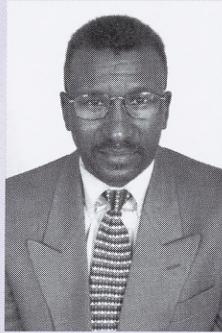
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The Change Is On!



The Publishing House and BookStore business/ministries of the Church Of God In Christ are in a dynamic upgrade. The change is on and soon they will become COGICStores! In relation to the vision and plan of ministry for the General Church Of God In Christ, Bro. John Daniels, newly appointed chairman of the Publishing Board is making sweeping changes in the ministry. The emerging COGICStores concept will be on display during the Holy Convocation. Much planning and hard work has been accomplished to bring new life, expanded service and better curriculum to the Church. There are some very basic changes and some off the chart upgrades going on will benefit the saints.

The Presiding Bishop's strategic goals were placed in the capable and thoroughly equipped Daniels. A noted attorney and businessman, he galvanized the support of the current staff and a new board to promote the expanded business concept. The Church Of God In Christ is going digital and changing the existing culture of business. There is a marked difference in product quality, customer service and distribution. On first glimpse, convention goers at the Holy Convocation will recognize the activities and advancements of the ministry are outstanding. Bro. Daniels wants the entire brotherhood to know great things are happening in Memphis to benefit the Church. He commented, "I have every confidence that we can help the Church through our COGICStores venture."

At the Holy Convocation the saints will be introduced to the new Publishing Board at the booth on the convention floor. The board members will share the enthusiasm and professionalism the new concept has generated. The products, concepts of who our customers are and the service they want are all a part of the strategic goals of the COGICStores. The new website and digital methods for business are there for the sampling. There is an emerging "COGIC Brand" and the saints are going to enjoy the benefit.

I believe that John Daniels and the new board will move us forward in a very positive direction. As the Chairman once wrote, "The legacy of the Publishing House is found in the selfless, creative, and spiritual devotion in the staff and leadership of the Church. For continued success, there must be a refocusing to enhance the possibilities for greater service, production of stronger curriculum materials and the necessary revenue for increased profitability. The Publishing House, Book Store and the general Church have greater need for money and curriculum generated through this ministry more than ever."

The Change is On!

Did You Renew Your Annual Subscription?

Last December the staff at the Publishing House mailed a renewal notice to your house. Hundreds of you took the opportunity to use the return envelope and send the payment back. Many hundreds of you failed to return the envelope.



The Whole Truth Magazine is constantly upgrading and attempting to provide timely and important news of the Church Of God In Christ.

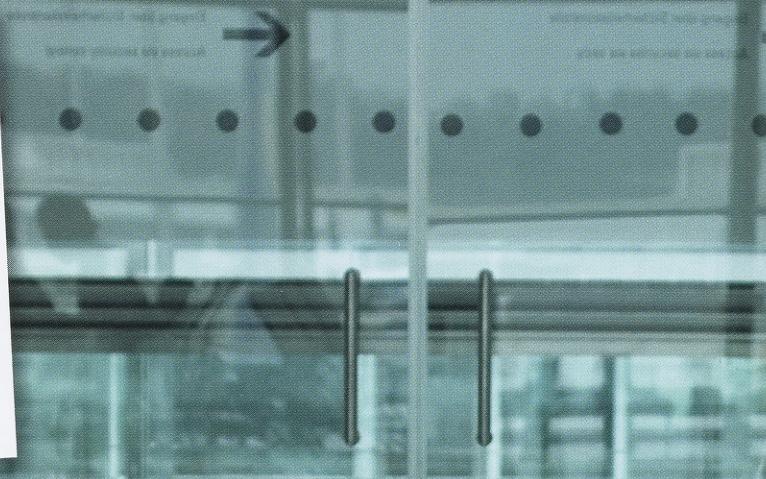
Every saint, especially credential holders, should receive the magazine. It only costs \$20.00.



It is not too late!

Pastors and Elders Conference

Good to Great: Pastors Learn Lessons in Leadership, Unwind at National Conference



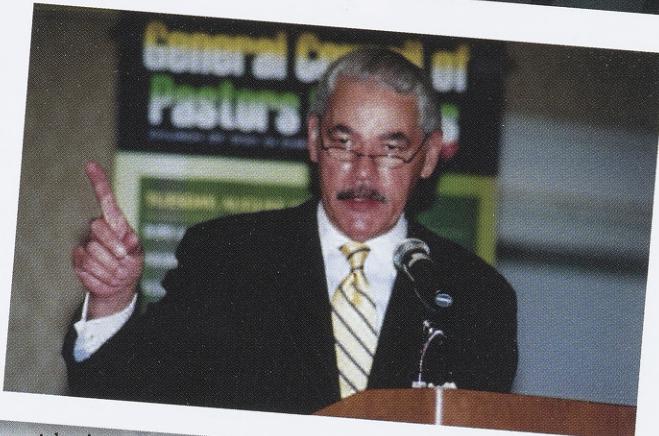
Orlando, Florida - Leaders learn to take their ministries into the 21st century at the General Council of Pastors and Elders conference in late August.

The event drew attendees from across the country including 600 pastors and their wives, elders, church staff and lay leaders. They converged on Orlando, Fla. anxious to develop new methods to grow their ministries and get "some much-needed rest."

Pastor Derrick W. Hutchins, chairman of the council and organizer of the event, said the purpose of the conference is two-fold: "We equip pastors with the tools necessary to become effective leaders. And we also develop an itinerary that will allow them to rest and unwind. Ministry is demanding," he said. "Pastors will provide better leadership to their congregations if they are equipped with skills needed to grow and develop in ministry. They can better meet these demands when they are rejuvenated and prepared for the task set before them," he added. He

said classes are also designed to help staff members such as church administrators and lay leaders work more cohesively with the leader. Conference-goers were treated to a daily smorgasbord of Spirit-filled worship services, breakout sessions and five-star accommodations as guests at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in the "City Beautiful." Presenters covered a variety of topics including the purpose of the General Council of Pastors and Elders, evangelism, church growth, finances and more. "We are living in an age of new technology and I especially appreciated learning how to use evangelism to broaden my reach as a Christian. The Internet and social networks like Face Book and My Space are mission fields," said J. Robinson. "I'm glad leaders are being taught to think outside the box where ministry is concerned."

First Lady Doris Murphy of New Bethel Church Of God In Christ and Evangelist Cathy Collins-Green of Texas Northeast First Jurisdiction, led classes for women. Missionary Murphy



addressed the challenges many pastors' wives face in ministry. She told the women: "There are many qualities needed in the role of a pastor's wife. These qualities vary with time and change as the ministry progresses," she said. General sessions and workshops were concluded by mid afternoon, giving delegates free time to visit many of central Florida's popular tourist's spots.

Some attendees went to the Holy Land Experience theme park, a one-of-a-kind ancient replica of Jerusalem owned by TBN founders Paul and Jan Crouch. And other delegates braved long lines to visit Walt Disney World and Universal Studios.

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake was unable to attend the conference, but he addressed delegates via video message followed by an evening of worship and singing by choirs and musi-

cal guest Keith 'Wonder Boy' Johnson. General board members Bishop Samuel L. Green and Bishop Sedgwick Daniels attended the conference, as did former vice president of the council Bishop Charles McClelland and bishop-designee Brandon Porter and J. Whithers. Bishop-designee Thomas Holsey was greeted by rousing applause for registering all the pastors in his jurisdiction for the conference.

Dancing to the cadence of the drums and non-stop music, the crowd praised God in preparation for the keynote message by Chairman Hutchins. Challenging the saints to fulfill their God-given destiny as pastors, elders and members in the body of Christ, he told the crowd to "do what God has called you to do." Preach the gospel. Win the lost. Tell them about an all-powerful God who can do anything, but fail!" he said. ☩

COME BY OUR BOOTH DURING
HOLY CONVOCATION

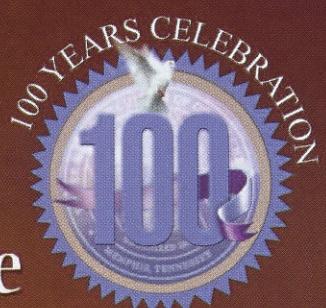
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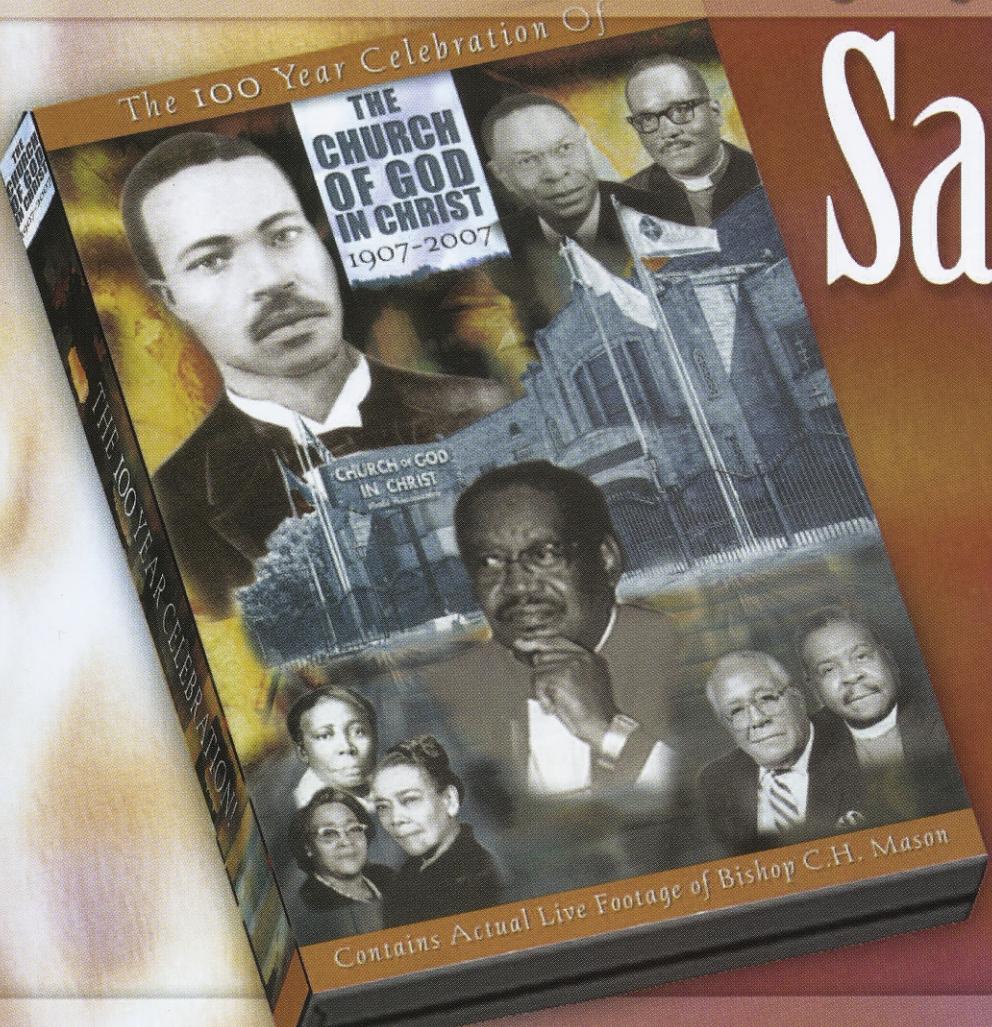


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National Loyalty

Day Goal **\$2 Million**



The general church is employing a special method to raise the budget that supports education and mission in the Church Of God In Christ. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. has appointed Bishop Jerry Macklin and Bishop Frank O. White to head up the National Loyalty Day activities on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Churches around the country launched individual loyalty day campaigns. These campaigns encouraged jurisdictions and local pastors to seek contributions of \$20.00 per person to support the Missions Department, our Theological Seminary and Bible College. Historically, the Church Of God In Christ has always supported both missions and education through the payment of credentials. This innovative program allows the member to demonstrate his or her faith in God, and support these ministries.

The C. H. Mason Theological Seminary will be celebrating 40 years of graduate education. Dr. Harold Bennett, President/Dean of the seminary told *The Whole Truth*, "Mason Seminary is the only accredited Pentecostal African-American Theological seminary in the world. Our relationship with the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) has been successful. We have produced clergy, missionaries, and professors who now teach in college and graduate school, and chaplains who work in the military. I'm personally proud that our church has supplied individuals of this caliber and they are making a contribution all over the world." The \$20.00 contribution assures that this institution will continue its progress in educating people for ministry.

Bishop Macklin pointed out that for too long a time missions have struggled without the funds necessary for worldwide outreach. He has cited the fact that Bishop Carlos Moody and other loyal missionaries have traveled the globe to expand the ministry and operations of the Church Of God In Christ. Bishop Macklin said, "Our Presiding Bishop has set a brand new standard with his Save Africa's Children's Campaign where literally hundreds and thousands of orphan children are fed and nurtured by the West Angeles Church Of God In Christ. It is with this confidence we know the general church can do the same." Bishop Macklin has launched a

Walk-A-Thon that the general church will participate in. On October 10, 2009, the church has planned for hundreds and thousands of individuals in every major city and small community around America to walk for donations. Any interested persons can go to www.cogic.org and register to participate in the Walk-A-Thon. Funds generated from this activity will go directly in support of the Missions Department.

World missions in the Church Of God In Christ have expanded very quickly. The country of Brazil had its first church founded in 1986. As of 2009, there are 72 churches in Brazil, including the capitol Salpaulo. Bishop Moore and the saints who have labored need the support. Things are growing so very quickly and there is a great demand for our support. In Nigeria, our Presiding Bishop consecrated 16 jurisdictional bishops. That mission field is growing by leaps and bounds. Bishop Obeb of Nigeria is very concerned that the support and aid so vitally needed, can be developed through the general church. There is such a need across that entire nation and the Church Of God In Christ is making a tremendous contribution to those efforts.

This November in the Holy Convocation, the results of this Walk-A-Thon ministry will be known. It is hoped that every individual who loves God and believes in the missions and educational

ministry of this church will understand our history demands we contribute. Time, money and our legacy direct us to put our hands to work for the future. Every jurisdictional bishop and saint in the Church Of God In Christ should want to play a role in this significant ministry, National Loyalty Day. 

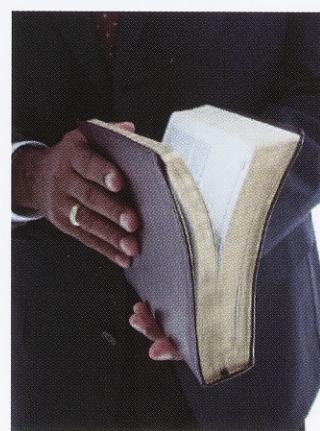
2 Million



The vision of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. is at the same time revolutionary and building continuity throughout our organization. He has requested that the entire Church develop in its capacity to utilize digital technology in matters concerning ministry and the operations of the Church. It is general knowledge that we have 175 jurisdictions in America, and in 60 foreign countries. Those bishops are responsible for the training, education, and spiritual formation of candidates for ministry. Those candidates are being prepared for ministry today in 175 different methods. After 103 years as a church organization, the Church Of God In Christ is preparing its first standardized ordination curriculum and procedures. In keeping with the Presiding Bishop's vision, the standardized curriculum is being developed and tested before being implemented in the life of the Church. The digital capacity he asked us to embrace will bring a standardized ordination practice everywhere at the same time.

Bishop Blake has commissioned Dr. David Hall, a group of bishops and COGIC scholars to prepare standardized ordination curriculum. This challenge is tremendous, but truly necessary, and is long overdue. The committee consists of General Board Member George McKinney, Board of Bishops Members: Bishop William

Watson and Martin Luther Johnson. Well known COGIC academics are Dr. David Daniels, Dr. Harold Bennett, Dr. Samuel Hogan, Dr. Eric Greaux, Dr. Fredrick Ware, and Dr. Lawrence Williams. These gentlemen are responsible for the development of a curriculum that will be utilized in every jurisdiction and for the first time bring the entire Church under one standard and practice for ordination.



The subject matters the curriculum shall embrace will be church history, church polity, Old Testament, New Testament, spiritual formation, dogma, preaching, general theology, and practical applications of ministry. It is desired that all local jurisdictional ordination boards will be trained in the use and

Standardized Ordination Curriculum

implementation of this curriculum in the not too distant future. There are many issues and methods that must be worked out so these jurisdictional ordination boards can function at the highest level of efficiency. Therefore, the Chairman of the Board of Bishops, Bishop John Sheard has invited the committee to attend the Board of Bishops annual meeting and allow that board to examine and critique the proposed material. Bishop Sheard said, "The jurisdictional bishop is responsible for the training and development of clergy for ordination. It is only right that the jurisdictional prelates have a first look at those materials designed for curriculum. All of us desire a standardized approach for ordination. I am personally glad the Presiding Bishop is bringing this committee to pass."

The Presiding Bishop and the General Board have already seen the initial offerings from the committee. Bishop Blake suggested to Chairman Hall that some sections of the curriculum may need criticism from another committee to examine its consistency with church doctrine and principles. Dr. Hall was thankful for the General Board and Presiding Bishop's support, and the committee is eager to see that every aspect of the curriculum and its imple-

mentation is approved by the general church for use. Committee Vice Chairman Bishop William Watson expressed, "The culture and presentation of this curriculum material must have a common origin. We want to produce qualified clergy who are thoroughly representative of the Church Of God In Christ. Chairman Hall is in total agreement that the committee is endeavored to produce material that can be taught to developing clergy and help create qualified clergy for ministry no matter where they practice.

Further information about how the program for ordination will be implemented is soon to come. The committee is seeking to develop a proper method to schedule and conduct periods of training and to fit those periods within the framework of every jurisdiction. The timelines and shape of the curriculum materials are still being determined. Their use by way of digital technology is also being studied. This is a tremendous and positive step in the life of the Church Of God In Christ. The committee and everyone involved know how very important this is. It has taken the church over 100 years to approach the development of a standardized curriculum. Everything is being done to bring a quality curriculum to the Church. ☩

COGIC Publishing Reorganizing



COGIC Publishing Board

Photos/Brother Stephen Savage

Memphis, Tennessee - The general church has announced the reorganizing of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing Board. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake has appointed Brother John Daniels, Esq. as Chairman of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing Board. The duly constitutional publishing operation is reestablishing its legitimate board after years of absence. The General Board of Bishops is relinquishing its control over publishing processes, and now a designated board will be responsible for future planning, growth and development of publishing ministries. Brother John Daniels and the 15 Board Members will now undertake the goals that the Presiding Bishop has re-outlined in the reorganizing and development of a publishing operation.

The Publishing Board has oversight of the Publishing House and Bookstore ministries. For years these two businesses operated under the direction of the Publishing Board chaired by Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush and subsequent boards. For years the

Publishing House and Publishing Board have directed both the nonprofit and for-profit publishing and retail businesses of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. These two separate, but related entities, will now be merged into a unified ministry that will increase the Church's market share for intellectual properties published and recorded for distribution and use throughout the Church Of God In Christ. The two businesses will maintain their separate locations, but related business activities and the distribution of retail goods will bring them together daily.

Chairman Daniels is a Harvard trained lawyer and businessman who resides in the city of Milwaukee, WI. His brother, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, is a newly elected member of the General Board of Bishops. His sister, Mrs. Valerie Daniels Carter, is a business owner of a nationwide chain of franchise restaurants and member of the National Music Department. Their family has, for years, been active in the life of the Church Of God In Christ. Attorney Daniels, a Harvard Law School graduate, is one of the

most preeminent lawyers in the country inducted in the Legal Hall of Fame and designated by the National Law Journal as one of the 50 most influential minority lawyers in the United States. In addition to his role on the Publishing Board, he is chairman of a major national corporate law firm having more than 450 lawyers through the United States. He has been the lead lawyer for many major corporations, including Altria, JP Morgan Chase, Kraft Foods, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Time Warner Cable.

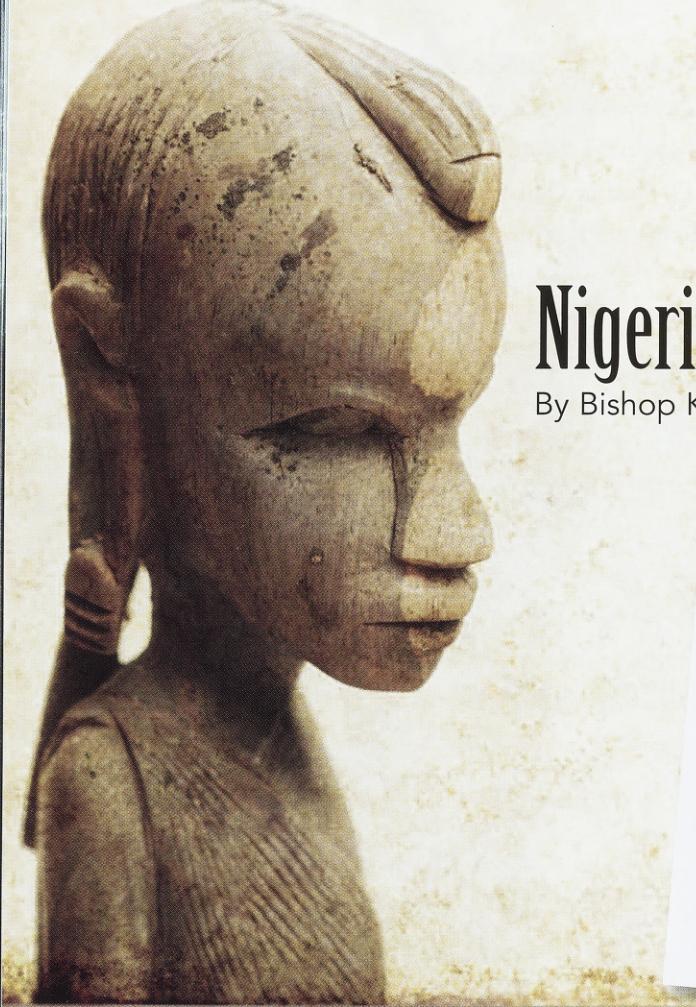
The Publishing House has three operating committees. 1) Marketing Committee lead by Sandra Jones which is designed to increase the reach of the Church's literature. 2) Curriculum and Educational Development Committee lead by Winifred Morris which will assure that all church principles are consistently reflected in the literature teaching and training and which will create opportunities for additional authors or others to generate original text material. 3) Operations Committee lead by Amos Smith to insure that the best business practices are being utilized in terms of interface with the customer and delivery of items. New members of the Publishing Board are: Diana Chandler Banks, Vicki Miller Brown, Joe Chase, Jr., Dr. B. L. Cleveland, Bishop Charles Connor, Uleses Henderson, Sandra Smith Jones, Welton Lawrence, Mack C. Mason, Oscar Meadows, Winifred Morris, Ron Owens, Marvin C. Pryor, Stephen Savage, Eric

Slack, Amos Smith, Bishop Ted Thomas, Lisa Townsel, and Reggie Witherspoon. All of these people have pledged to provide skill and expertise to advance the publishing ministry in the Church Of God In Christ. Along with Chairman Daniels, they make a tremendous team.

The Publishing Board will expand the vision of the Presiding Bishop by putting the COGIC Store on the map as a brand name. Soon the Publishing House and Bookstore will be able to serve church constituency through the general website under the linkage, called COGIC Stores. The COGIC Store promises to usher in the highest level of communication and capacity for retail of COGIC products and information to help churches throughout the brotherhood. One will be able to obtain the new and improved Church Of God In Christ Sunday School literature and other departmental materials. From the bookstore, one will be able to obtain COGIC brand items, and other materials produced to enhance ministry operations for both local churches, and by individuals. All COGIC conventions, recordings and publications will be found under the COGIC Store. The endeavor to increase both market share and ministry development is outstanding and will have greater prominence in the life of the saints. Be on the lookout for new and exciting opportunities provided through the COGIC Publishing Board. ☩



Chairman Daniels addresses the meeting



Nigerian Jurisdiction Moving Forward

By Bishop Kenneth Obi



Nigeria is a country with a population of over 150 million people. There are 36 states and a federal capitol. It is a country that presently has 16 newly consecrated bishops who preside over 16 distinct jurisdictions. We in Nigeria are very happy to be associated with the Church Of God In Christ, headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. came to Nigeria and consecrated the 16 bishops and the work has developed quickly and effectively. I am the bishop in the Edo State.

There is a great vision for the Edo State Church Of God In Christ, Nigeria, and there are almost 200 churches in the jurisdiction. The Edo Jurisdiction works to empower the minds of individuals (especially youth) to look for Christ and to make society a better place to live in. The Church Of God In Christ has become a catalyst of change and the membership is now becoming groundbreakers and empowered people making a difference in the twenty-first century. Developing spiritual leaders daring to go beyond the boundaries of ordinary faith and reaching spiritual levels in God have been our goal. We have made an indel-

ble mark in the country and people understand that the Church Of God In Christ is called to do what Philippians 3:14 says, "To press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus."



The Edo State Church Of God In Christ is bringing a Pentecostal, moral, ethical, and religious value to the society that has many needs. Edo is a place where violence against women, HIV and AIDS, rape, and other problems are significant. We have actively, through preaching and praying and social activity, helped to reduce these problems in the lives of families and communities. Through our ministry, we are seeking

to bring information and support to those who are suffering with diseases and other culturally unhealthy situations. We are encountering the real problems of individuals; thereby we have met these needs by raising young and viable leaders through the Word of God for soul-winning.

The Edo Church Of God In Christ jurisdiction has one great need and that is financial support. In Nigeria, church membership is

very small and many times very poor. Many of the churches that started out with the jurisdiction have pulled out because they claim they can do better with another organization that will deliver help. I'm writing the article in *The Whole Truth* magazine to encourage mission-minded people that the work is great and the need greater. If it would be your purpose to help a mission that is doing Christ work, we in the Edo State jurisdiction need your support. To say it plainly, we are looking for sponsors. Paul was told to come over to Macedonia. I'm asking you to come to Edo State. Send support! God is working, and you can, too. Bishop Kenneth Obi, Prelate, Edo State Church Of God In Christ, Nigeria. ☩

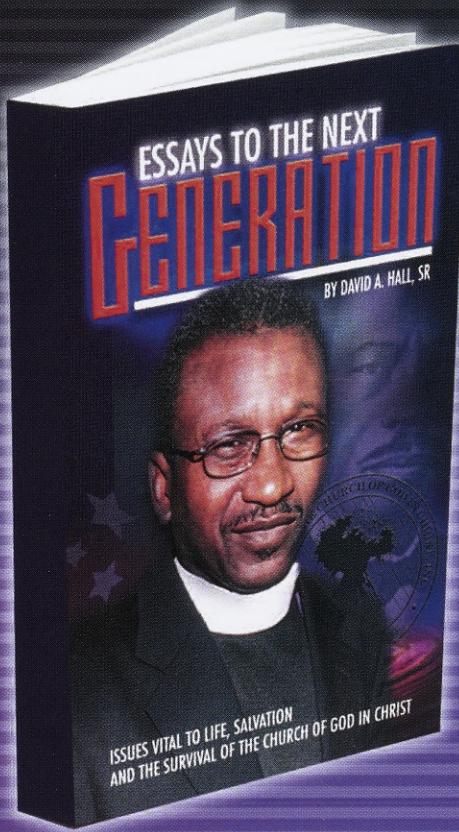


Essays to the Next Generation

TEN ESSAYS TO THE PRESENT AND COMING GENERATIONS
ON ISSUES VITAL TO LIFE, SALVATION AND THE SURVIVAL OF
THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

1. WHY THE ELECTION OF 2000
WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE 1968
2. TITHING: SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR
LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH
3. STEM CELL RESEARCH: MURDER OR MEDICINE?
4. ABORTION: IMMORAL DECISION AND THE
COGIC RESPONSE
5. CAN WE SAVE THIS ORGANIZATION?
EFFECTIVE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY
6. INTERRELATING WITH THE COGIC
JUDICIARY BOARD
7. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: AN EMERGING POLICY
8. GAY RIGHTS! RESPONSE OF THE SANCTIFIED CHURCH
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Dr. Odie H. Tolbert, Jr., Honored

Dr. Odie Tolbert celebrated his 70th birthday August 21, 2009. He was born in 1939 during the end of the depression, a child to Odie Tolbert, Sr. and Mrs. Rozina Tolbert. The theme for the celebration was "Celebrating the Chapters of My Life." The surprise birthday celebration was conducted at Pentecostal Temple Church Of God In Christ, in Memphis, Tennessee. Tolbert is a retired librarian who worked at the University of Memphis and rose to the level of professor, librarian, and archivist, despite the handicap of a hearing disability. Dr. Tolbert is totally deaf.

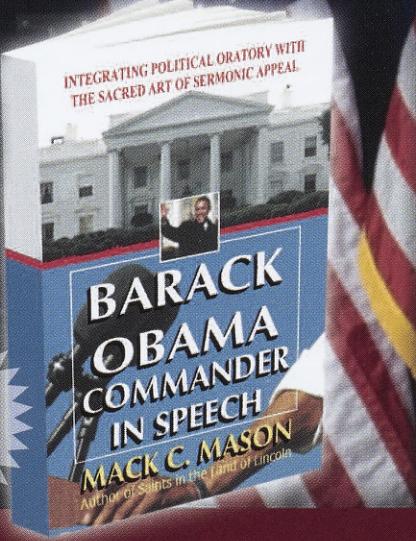
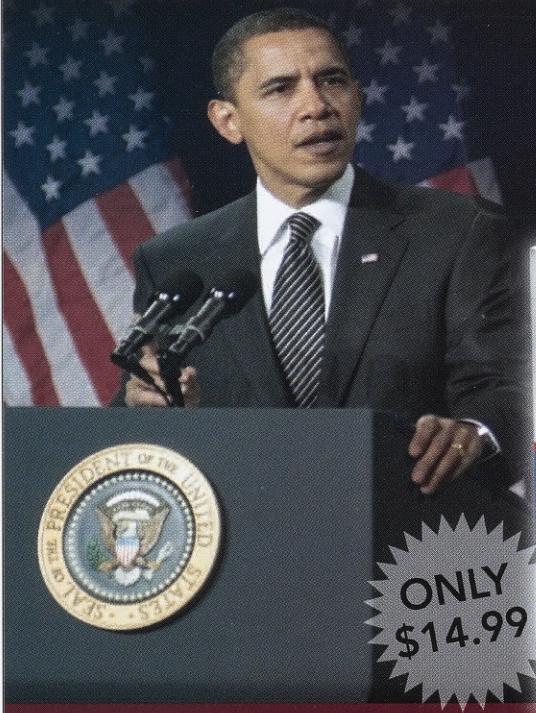
Tributes during the celebration came from his pastor, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr., Chairman of the General Assembly, and a plaque was presented from Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. The plaque honored the research and work Dr. Tolbert completed for the general church while seeking the registration of Mason Temple on the national register of historic places in Washington, DC. On April 10, 1972, Mason Temple officially became a national historic site.

Dr. Tolbert is much loved and persons from near and far came to laud his accomplishments and lifetime achievements. He never

allowed his handicap to deter him from making a tangible contribution in the life of students, to his fellow church members, and the persons at large. A 1957 Manassas High School graduate gave remarks about their school days and living in the New Chicago Community of Memphis, Tennessee. The remarks of Mr. Marvin Doggett reflected how Odie was always an industrious and determined individual during his life.

Odie is married to Mrs. Magnolia Nan Tolbert. They have three children, and all of them are talented and expressed their love for God. People of goodwill gave him tributes on various levels of his social, occupational, and religious endeavors. Among those who praised him were Bishop James Austin, Sr. Prelate of Illinois Fifth Jurisdiction and Dr. George C. Grant, retired Dean of Library at Arkansas State University. The most special presentation, however, was reserved for Dr. Tolbert's wife and children. They presented him a lifetime achievement award and a dozen of long stem roses. They wanted him to know how much they truly love and respect him. ☺

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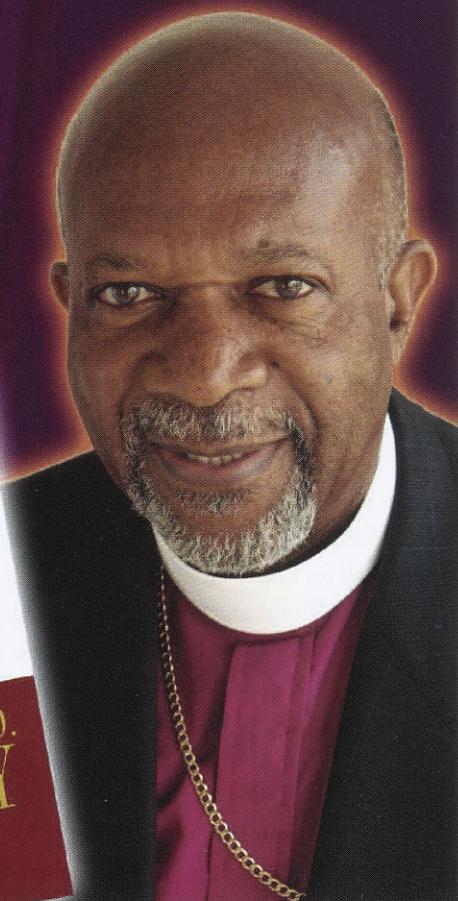
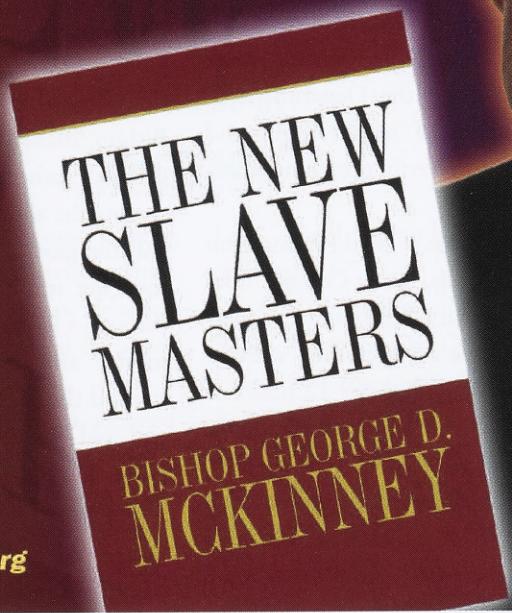


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The Church Of God In Christ Department of Women Celebrates 59th Women's International Convention/Crusade

By Glenda Williams Goodson

The Mile High City is Forever Changed After thousands converge during Memorial Day Week



Where escaped slaves and Seminoles once roamed in partnership, the Rocky Mountains loomed majestically in the background as women from across the United States and the world made their way to Colorado's capitol city for the 59th Women's International Convention/Crusade (WIC). The WIC is the second largest convention in the Church Of God In Christ (COGIC) in number. In the absence of WIC Coordinator Mother Olive Brown, Co-Coordinator Mother Carolyn Galbreath did an excellent job overseeing the convention's team. Beginning with the Leadership Conference for Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors, Mother Willie Mae Rivers, General Supervisor for the Department of Women, indeed led the women into a week of "higher heights and deeper depths" through sound teaching, powerful preaching, community outreach and expressive worship.

The Convention/Crusade's stated purpose is World Evangelism and the call for Better Homes, Better Schools, Better Communities and a Better World and Church Of God In Christ women understand that nothing great for God can be accomplished without prayer. For the third year Mother Rivers called for 12 hours of prayer and fasting from midnight Sunday night to Noon on Monday and thousands of women responded!

"The Lord has given [our Mother] an anointed mind for women of all ages," said Supervisor Barbara McCoo Lewis. The WIC presents a wealth of offerings for female constituents and Monday

night's musical was no exception. After hearing powerful messages through songs from Evangelist Dorinda Clark Cole, Evangelist Myrna Summers, Kathy Taylor of Houston, Texas, The Nevel Sisters of Ohio and Linamar Ortiz of Charleston, SC, women explained that they were still experiencing a spiritual plateau toward the end of the week. Evangelist Bettye Nelson and the Women's Convention Choir did an outstanding job in providing anointed music the entire week.

District Missionary Arcella Fields hurried to the Denver Convention Center Tuesday night to join thousands dressed in beautiful white attire to hear the Official Address. Presiding Bishop Blake, Members of the General Board and National Officials gathered to hear the Word given by Mother Rivers. After singing the anthem God gave to her one morning at 3:00 a.m. that "All the glory, the honor, the praises all day belong to God" she took her text from Exodus 2:10 and encouraged her daughters through a wonderful message from the perspective of what Moses' mother and sister did to save him. (See inset) Mother Rivers stressed the urgency of being on task for the work of the ministry and told of a dream in which she saw herself outside where "people stood on balconies as well as...on the grass listening for a word of hope." In the dream a young woman came up to her and said, "I want to be saved!" She pleaded with pastors to "give the women a chance to do the job of women's ministry...The auxiliaries were

endorsed by Bishop Mason," she said. Jacqui Jones, Purity Lady for Texas Northwest agreed. "It's such a great privilege to help teens and pre-teens develop their Christian walk," she said.

On Wednesday morning while Mother Rivers and her panel interacted with thousands of women 49 and under in the main auditorium, National Prayer Leader Mother Frances Kelley along with her team met others thirsty for more of God each morning in anointed prayer services.

Throughout the convention Mother Rivers shared golden nuggets with her daughters. Sis. Cherie Jones of Lexington, KY took it all in. "This is my first time and it is life changing...." The Lord dropped the idea of honoring the laity of the Church into Mother Rivers' spirit who she encouraged to "think big of yourself...you're a child of the king, a saint...a saint can't go acting any kind of way, looking any kind of way [because] we are the light of the world. I don't care how the world dresses, I'm going to still wear my dresses!" She explained to women 49 and under not to let their today destroy their tomorrow and urged them to mentor others. "Take the girls 7, 8, and 9, and tell them God made them a woman."

The International Marshall, Supervisor Barbara McCoo Lewis and Co-Marshall Dr. Juliet White again did an excellent job in moving the services forward yet submitting to the move of God as He came into the services. After the words of exhortation from Mother Rivers, Dr. White called for laywomen Sis. Charrin Twiggs (Michigan), Sis. Barbara Rivers Johnson (South Carolina), Sis. Teneka Adams and Attorney Sheila Grissom (California) to give presentations on the convention theme of implementing strategies for the 21st century.

The banner parades were beautiful with both large and small auxiliaries, bands and units which Marshall McCoo Lewis called the Strength of the Department, marching to Mother Elizabeth Crooms' singing "This is the Church Of God In Christ." Foreign supervisors from Pakistan, Uganda, Malawi, Guatemala, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda, India, South Africa, Nigeria and Barbados were provided an opportunity to give brief expressions.

COGIC Associate Justice Barbara J. McKinney moderated Thursday's forum and Attorney April Forbes of New York spoke on Sexual Misconduct in the Church. "The stakes are high," she said and continued that, "sexual abuse of a child is not only intercourse but also lewd acts." Informing the delegates that "as women

we have to take a proactive approach in dealing with sexual misconduct." She stated that since the Church is open to everyone, one of the requirements for church volunteers should be to run a criminal background check. Supervisor Dr. Gloria Johnson Rodgers, an Internal Medicine and Family Practitioner, next spoke on hope for gender identity issues. "In a recent study at least 20% of the population surveyed admitted they have had homosexual thoughts or contacts and 75% of all male offenders admit to a contact with a child less than 18...We must tell children the truth: Everyone in the Church is not saved and delivered..." Evangelist Romanetha Stallworth, a Marriage and Family Therapist wrapped up the facilitator portion of the forum. "I asked God to bring some strong deliverances because this [spirit of homosexuality and lesbianism] is real and...in our churches....I don't argue whether they were born that way. I tell them that there is a second birth." She cautioned that as saints we should not be guilty of bashing

anyone. She brought a young woman to come forth who explained how she entered the lesbian lifestyle after many years of molestation. Over four years ago God drew her to a Church Of God In Christ where the pastor and wife prayed for her deliverance and she now has no desire for a woman. Evangelist Bettye Nelson was transparent both in sharing that there were many in the choir and on the stage who needed deliverance and that one of her family members had been in bondage to lesbianism but God delivered her. "We cannot criticize...we must love and pray them out," she said. Mother Mae Winbush requested that every woman wanting deliverance from lesbianism or had daughters in need to come forward. Missionary Patrice Philemon of South Africa was especially glad for the services. "God has empowered me," she said, "because a lesbian kept following me and she gave her heart to the

Lord...but I will go back and continue to pray for her [complete deliverance]."

On Wednesday night, Dr. Regina Jones, widow of General Board Member Dr. O.T. Jones, Jr. asked the delegates "How Useful Are You to the Lord?" taken from the story of Dorcas in Acts 9:36. Evangelist Janice Craig of Texas Northeast First shared a powerful word on Thursday night "You Are Still Expecting, Don't Abort That Thing" (Jeremiah 29:11, Habbakuk 2:3, Isaiah 55:1).

Reports of how the Spirit of God continues to save, heal, set free and deliver were told throughout the convention, in hotel lobbies



and on the streets! Mother Frances Kelley requested that any first time delegate having a burning testimony approach the podium. One woman from Compton, California testified that "God cleaned me up and I've been clean for 18 years!" Evangelist Joyce Rodgers, who organizes a street team each year, reported that on one day alone twenty-four souls were saved. Supervisor Lee Van Zandt and her Nursing Home team also reported souls being saved.

Mother Gertrude Young, Chairperson of the Executive Board and Mother Artaska King, Chairperson of the Advisory Board have supported the convention for many years and the audience is always glad to hear from them. "I love the Church Of God In Christ and have been here all my life," Mother King said while cautioning the daughters of the Church to never lose their identities.

Mother Rivers thanked General Board Member Bishop J. Neaul Haynes who told them "we would be all right if we came to Denver," as well as the Executive Women who gave pledges. She was very pleased with the hard work of Colorado, the host Jurisdiction, the co-hosts and supporting jurisdictions of Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Oklahoma Northwest, and Oklahoma Southeast.

Int'l Sunshine Band President Dr. Lytia Howard and Mother Thelma Cotton, Int'l Purity Class President provided a showcase of youth who sang, preached and performed for the Lord. In a special treat, Presiding Bishop Blake laid hands on and prayed for hundreds of the young people and children.

Before 7pm on Friday night the auditorium was almost filled to capacity as the WIC awaited the message from the Chief Apostle, Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake. Delegates were happy to hear greetings from our beautiful and elegant First Lady Mae Blake. Lady Blake stated that it was in Denver at a youth con-

gress, she met "the most magnificent man that has walked this earth, besides Jesus Christ." Evangelist Sherron Williams said that "my heart was warmed as she honored her husband."

Dr. Judith McAllister led the choir in "O the Glory of Your Presence," then Bishop Blake strode to the podium and stated that he believed the COGIC will be the most forceful army of worshippers in the nation. "When you are a bona fide leader you bless the people," he stated presenting the remaining \$50,000 of the \$100,000 he pledged for the renewal of COGIC's Memphis Executive Building.

He delivered a profound message "On Being a Woman or a Mother Amid Adversity," which was really Hagar's story found in Genesis 16:18, 21:14. As a spiritual father, Bishop Blake used a common sense approach in his message to lift women to the safety and security of holiness. In a poignant moment, he revealed that sometimes you have to let your children go so that the Lord can bring them back. At one point "I told my son that he had to go," he explained and continued that he let him know that "he wasn't going to live any kind of way in [my] house." But he followed him everywhere he went and now he praised God that "he is a saved, sanctified, preacher in the Church Of God In Christ." Understanding that some women in the audience had been through heartache, abuse or just the vicissitudes of raising well balanced children as a single parent, the Lord led him "on behalf of every man that hurt you, let you down, broke your heart to say 'I'm sorry' for the hurt, pain. We fought battles for ourselves and we hurt you but forgive us." Cleansing tears coursed the faces of many in the audience as some said audibly, 'I forgive.'

It was now time to furl the banner for another year. Mother Rivers blessed God for another wonderful Women's International Convention/Crusade and announced that the 2010 Convention would be held in Los Angeles. ☩

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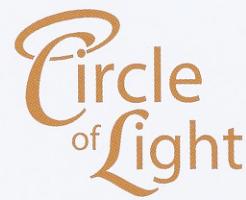
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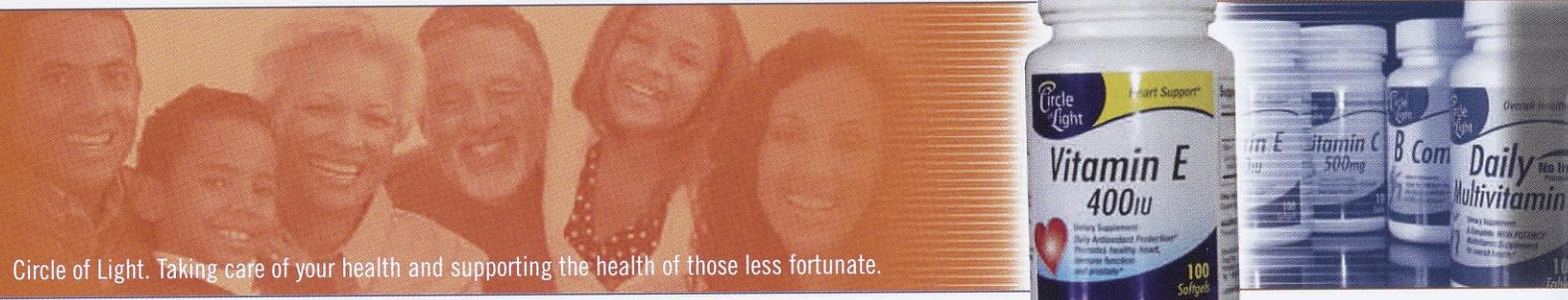
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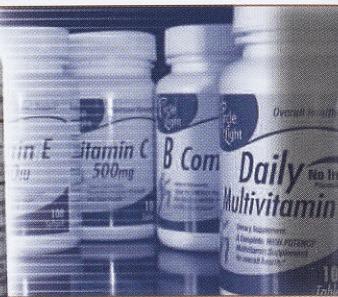


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New York Central Jurisdiction – Something Special!



Bishop Houston and Executive Council

Syracuse, New York – Bishop Ronald J. Houston, prelate of the New York Central Jurisdiction of the Church Of God In Christ is a clergyman with a clear vision. The jurisdiction is an expanding entity with enthusiastic and progressive pastors. Headquartered in Rochester, New York, the jurisdiction is spread across the central area of New York and has provided new ecclesiastical growth for the Church Of God In Christ. The innovative and practical ministries his jurisdiction has designed are reaching persons who never thought about the organization. Bishop Houston's approach to the community has proven to be fresh and inviting. The Church affiliation for those members of New York Central Jurisdiction has grown more meaningful with each passing day.

This past Summer's jurisdictional Holy Convocation was well attended. Pastor Nebraska Carter opened the doors of the Living Water Church Of God In Christ and made the saints comfortable. Everything from the order of worship, great preaching, the best of music and fellowship stirred the spiritual imaginations of the saints. The Bishop has a plan for the total man. He personally is involved with health and education ministries, and business development. His use of professionals in his jurisdiction encourages the gifted members to ply their skills around the jurisdiction. Another point of light is Central New York Jurisdiction's model community health initiative. He and the pastors have committed to teach the practice of healthy life styles. Bishop Houston informed the pastors, "There are a lot of issues that impact the health of people in our society. The jurisdiction's leaders must be socially and religiously astute when it comes to health. Healthy bodies can serve God a lot better. It is our responsibility to provide information and an example of healthy living in the larger community. Said simply the saints should be healthy."

The jurisdiction is newly launched and has a different organizational style. In secular life, Bishop Houston was an executive at Xerox Corporation. Those business principles and management skills have been used wherever possible and created a different protocol. Bishop Houston and lady Jennifer Houston, who is a newly published author, are quite the team. Lady Houston's book, "Is There Any Coffee in Heaven" has been released with excellent reviews. They are a great pastor and wife combination. Their local congregation has a model Child Learning Center and Bishop is pursuing the development of an entire low income housing community.

Bishop Houston is developing a following of young progressive ministers and missionaries. He views the jurisdiction as an entity with resources, though limited, that can be utilized for bettering daily life through the connection. He is developing a tight group of believers that are ready to test their faith in the market of ideas. He encourages management of time and having full relationships in and out of Church. His is to provide ministry to the whole man. With the economy in central New York state suffering, his awareness as the leader is making the difference with many persons in need of strengthening. He has projected a message that sustains mental health through practical application of faith principles leading to solid spiritual formation. Bishop Houston believes the Church can do something to help people facing economic pressures. He is ever thinking, planning performing acts that create blessing and opportunity.

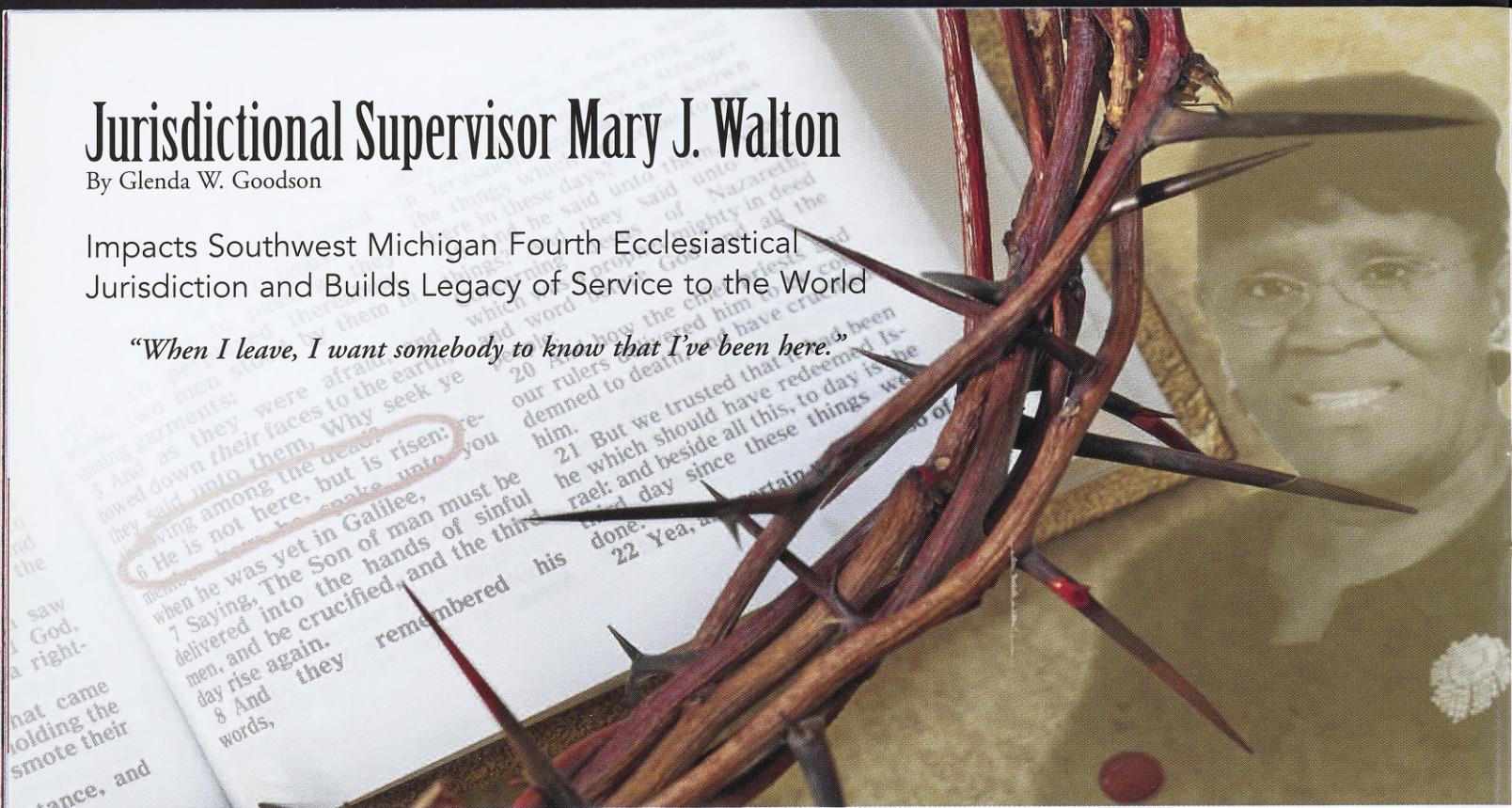
Anyone looking for a fresh, anointed and progressive association of churches should visit New York Central Jurisdiction. The atmosphere and activities will inspire the visitor. The people will win one over and their joy will affect that individual's outlook. ☩

Jurisdictional Supervisor Mary J. Walton

By Glenda W. Goodson

Impacts Southwest Michigan Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Builds Legacy of Service to the World

"When I leave, I want somebody to know that I've been here."



The Whole Truth Magazine recognizes that there are individuals across the brotherhood who love the church, work as team members coming up through the ranks and have made tremendous contributions to the Church of God in Christ. Mother Mary J. Walton, Supervisor of the Department of Women of Southwest Michigan Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (the Honorable Bishop Fred Lewis, Jurisdictional Prelate) is one such woman.

Originally from El Dorado, Arkansas, Mother Walton attended the Fairview Church Of God In Christ (COGIC), Supt. L. A. Austin, pastor. She was saved at age seven through the ministry of her Sunshine Band. "Every Saturday Mother Mattie Wilson would introduce us to Jesus Christ and tell us how exciting it was to be saved," Mother Walton explains. She was one of eight children of Zolon and Freeman White and the family was very poor. "Mother Wilson told us what heaven and hell were like...we lived in a three room house, and I was excited about living in a mansion...[In my child's mind] I thought after getting saved I would move into a mansion!", she shares with a laugh.

At almost seventy, Mother Walton says that as she grew she worked in every department of the Church—Sunshine Band, Purity Class, YWCC leader and at one time was President of the choir—and states that her walk with the Lord has been constant. "The COGIC has everything you really need and is designed for every boy, girl, woman and man to have a place. Coming from a broken, home they instilled in me that Jesus loved me and if [I]lived right nothing was impossible for me. The Purity Class helped me as a teenager ...when I married my husband James A. Walton over fifty-one years ago, the YWCC was right there along with the Prayer and Bible Band as I raised my son and two spiritual daughters." She attributes her success to a myriad of individuals pouring into her life. Through the Lord using the COGIC to teach the Word of God and sitting under sound doctrine of seasoned teachers, she has been blessed. "Working with those old pioneers such as Mother Washington, Pastor L.A. Austin, praying old

mothers from Conway, Arkansas such as Mother Powers, Mother Samuels, Mother Ford, Mother Mattie Wilson, Mother Gladys Hill...they wouldn't allow me to get off track."

She states that many influenced her but praying women such as Mother Nettie Cole of Los Angeles also made a tremendous impact upon her life at the age of 16. Surrounded by the saints who loved her, she completed the El Dorado, Arkansas high school and enrolled in Pine Bluff A&M University. "We ran out of money for me to finish college in Pine Bluff but when we relocated to Detroit the Lord allowed me to go to nursing school. Upon my completion I was a certified radiological technologist and worked in that field for over twenty eight years." During this time she received encouragement from Supervisor Lillian Johnson who gave her the marching orders "God bless America, go ahead!"

Mother Walton is a woman a person can go to for wise counsel and has been giving good advice since her pastor appointed her Junior Church Mother at twenty-three. "I would encourage people that have become stagnant to get involved with your local church, district and jurisdictional work. If you work with the church you can't stay depressed or lonely." Because each generation must learn how to work together in the spirit of unity, she urges young people to glean from their leaders. "After retiring from Henry Ford Hospital, I devoted myself to full-time ministry. One of the greatest assets of my life was to work with my supervisor Mother Mary Lou Belvin. As a District Missionary for almost thirty years and working as Mother Belvin's personal representative for twenty years, the wisdom I gained is priceless."

She also worked with the Southwest Michigan First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction under Bishop J.S. Bailey as Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee, President of the Junior Missionary Alliance and Assistant State Secretary. "God has allowed us to have such godly leaders in the Church Of God In Christ. People such as Mother Iner Bailey, the wife of Bishop Bailey, still call me to encourage and pray for me although she is currently on the shut-in list. It's a privilege for me to give back some of the things the Church has given me."

Nineteen years ago, she was chosen to give back to the Church on yet another level. "One of the greatest things that happened to me was when the Lord saved me, filled me with the Holy Ghost and placed me in the COGIC. [Serving the Lord here] means more to me than anything that has happened in my life. The Lord has blessed me to work in a jurisdiction with spiritual people. Bishop Lewis is such a spiritual bishop and a man of prayer. Our jurisdiction is founded on prayer, the Word and worship. We take care of business but the primary focus of our bishop is prayer and praising the Lord."

Mother Walton understands that prayer, loving people and teamwork is key to the success of any endeavor and has surrounded herself with keen women. "Lady Statha Lewis, my bishop's wife is one of the finest motivators and supporters of the work that I have been associated with. I also have some key women who work with me to move the work forward. We have just completed our 18th Annual State Women's convention and made history. This was our first year to have everything in the hotel. It was so wonderful to see all the women rushing in to the prayer and the services. The Convention was also a success because Bishop Lewis and his Administrative Assistants, Supt. Aaron Milton and Supt. Melvin Lewis stood and pledged their loyalty and support. They said they love women's work because their mother was a woman!" she continues with a laugh.

Mother Walton has been afforded the unique opportunity to work with many pioneers and leaders. "As a State Sunshine Band leader I served with Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey when she was the Supervisor of Southwest Michigan. Working with her was a wonderful experience. After Mother Coffey's demise, Mother Belvin became our Jurisdictional Supervisor and I have continued to work ever since. In the national church I have worked with each supervisor beginning with Mother Mattie McGlothen." She currently works with Mother Willie Mae Rivers as a member of the Executive Board, Chairperson of the Red Card and Compliments Committee and Alternate General Supervisor's Representative. "I have enjoyed Mother Rivers. When I came to Michigan the Lord put me in the lap of Mother Belvin and now Mother Rivers has picked me up. She has embraced my life and encouraged me. Mother Rivers reaches out to the young, middle aged and old. She has a vision [and] she points us to love Jesus, then love the Church and love the work."

Her skills in working with people have helped her to succeed as Area Chairperson for the Michigan and Canadian Supervisors. "Working with the men as well, the Lord has given me favor. I am blessed to work with the First Assistant Presiding Bishop of the

COGIC, Bishop P.A. Brooks. He really knows how to treat women. He tells me I am an intricate part of the work. I could say with tears that if you work with the Church, the Church will help you. You can overcome any storm if you stay with the Church. The Lord always has somebody to help."

Mother Walton's entire life is dedicated to her Lord, her family, and the ministry. "My local pastor, Administrative Assistant L.C. Hunter, recently passed away at the age of 93. He was a kind and gentle man. He motivated me and helped me so much. He admonished us to pursue peace. Now the Lord has given me another pastor, Elder Keith Crump. He is a fine young man with the kind of confidence that he doesn't mind receiving help. I'm a helper and I want to help." Through years of quiet administration Mother Walton understands the intricacies of leadership. "I can lead and I can follow. When it's time to lead I can lead and when it's time to follow I can follow."

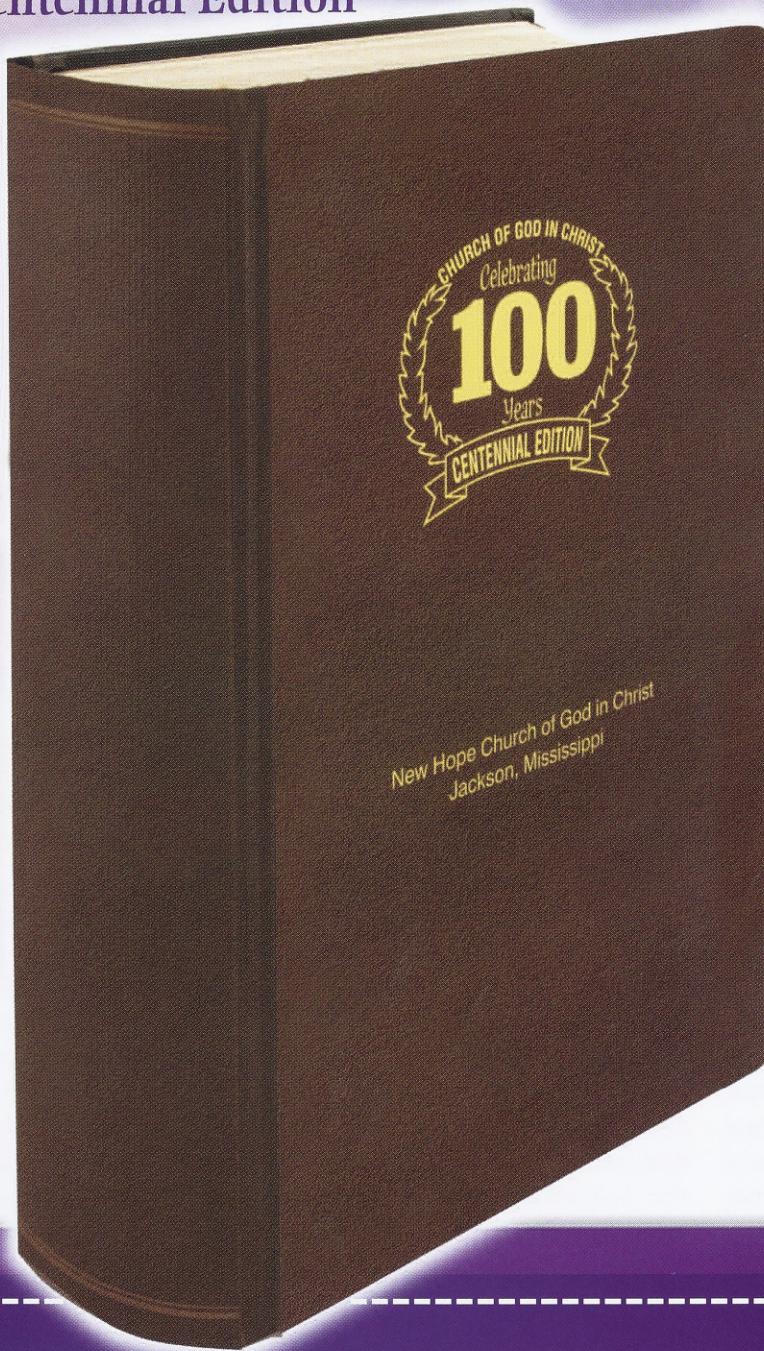
Not only does the Holy Ghost lead her in working with her local church, through her jurisdictional accountabilities and overseeing her area of responsibility in the national work but for over twenty five years she has held a ministry for hurting people called: The Summit. "It's for hurting women. My daughter, Mary E. Tyler, helps me with The Summit. We've worked with Bishop Phillip and Patricia Owens in this interdenominational summit." From the time Mother Walton founded The Summit, held each year over the Labor Day weekend, it has grown to over 1,000 African American, Hispanic and Caucasian attendees. "People come in from Thursday through Sunday for three days of intense workshops, prayer, and information to help people becomes stabilized. It's for whosoever will."

Mother Walton, a woman of courage, faith, hard work and perseverance has a heart for the young to stay with the Lord. "The main thing I would like to leave with them is to stay with the Lord. And then stay with the Church Of God In Christ." She states that she cannot emphasize enough for young women to show loyalty to the church. "I would tell young women, get to know the mother. And not just in Church. Talk with them, call them up, visit with them and sit at their feet. The young people of today must run after holiness and thirst and desire righteousness. If they allow them, the [seasoned saints] will help them." She further encourages faithfulness. "I encourage women to be faithful to the Church – not only Sunday morning...but love Sunday School! Have a prayer life and a fasting life," she says with conviction. She believes—and her life is a witness—that an individual's faithfulness commends them to God and they will have what the Bible calls good success by following the Lord and the Church. Even though storms will come, Mother Walton wants the younger people to understand that "after you have suffered awhile then you'll reign. I want them to love their local church. Working in the Church is not all about prestige and money, it's about Jesus."

She sums up her mission in life with these words: "My aim is when I leave here I want to serve so that somebody will know that I've been here."

Thank you Mother Mary J. Walton for living an exemplary and model life as a testament to the faithfulness of God. ♀

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COGIC Around the Globe

News from Across the Brotherhood

Tacoma, Washington Church Hosts Gospel Fest-Pastor John Wayne Penton and the members of the Roosevelt Heights Church Of God In Christ held their 17th Annual Gospel Fest on August 22, 2009. Pastor Penton says that, "The gospel fest started about 17 years ago with our local church and now we collaborate with other churches and charity organizations to make a difference in the inner city." The event, which drew over 3,000 African-American, Hispanic, Caucasian and Asian attendees from all walks of life, was held at People's Park at 9th and Martin Luther King. The Gospel Fest is the brainchild of Bro. Navele C. Davis, Roosevelt Heights' Minister of Music. Music was provided by multiple churches featuring the Roosevelt Heights Church Of God In Christ choir. (The Roosevelt Heights Choir has been selected several years in a row as the headliner for the city's Martin Luther King Celebration, which draws 5,000 annually.) "The choir, gospel artists and gospel rappers draws inquiry," said Pastor Penton. With the sponsorship of the church's partner, World Vision, over 2,000 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed. Other partners provided free clothing, barbers

cut hundreds of kids hair under age 10, and social agencies gave free health screenings. While vendors are allowed to sell merchandise, most offered free sandwiches, hot dogs and drinks. Pacific Lutheran University is also a major sponsor.

Roosevelt Heights has made an impact in the community from their community involvement. "We don't do anything in a vacuum but partner with other churches in our street ministry and feeding program. Our main focus," says Pastor Penton, "is sharing Christ with the people. At the Gospel Fest, we had prayer booths for people who wanted prayer. Others came to booths who wanted to be saved." The pastor says that although he doesn't have statistics on how many souls have been saved through the annual event, these efforts have increased his membership. And some transformations have been outstanding. "One example I have to talk about is Sis. Margaret Logan who is one of the great ushers in the State of Washington. She saw them at the park and gave her life to Christ. Now this very faithful sister works with the State Usher Board." Pastor John Wayne

Penton, First Lady Linda Penton and the entire Roosevelt Heights church family invite you to visit them whenever you are in the Great State of Washington. You'll find Pastor Penton at the door greeting you each Sunday morning. Call them at 253.627.1615 or visit their website at www.rooseveltheights.com.

Indian Pastors Hold Successful Meetings



Tamilnadu, India--Dear Brethren in Christ,

Greetings in the sweet name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you very much for your prayers and encouraging letters regarding my travel and Pastors Meeting in Andhra Pradesh, India.

I am happy to inform you that the meetings of the Pastors of the state of Andhra Pradesh went on well. We had meetings with the Guntur North, Guntur South and Chittoor Districts for 45 pastors. I am sending to you some pictures. Kindly continue to



pray for the ministries of the COGIC India III. You are always in our prayers. My wife Serena and all our pastors join with me

in greeting you all.

God bless Until each city and village in India has a church.

Dr. Bevin G. Lawrence, M.B.B.S., M.D. (M.A.), B.D., D. Min., Overseer, Church Of God In Christ India III Jurisdiction, No: 3-103, Lloyds Road, Kodaikanal, Tamilnadu, India- 624 101, Ph: 91 4542 241412 or 91 4542 240814, Mobile: 91 944 304 0814, Website: www.cogic.in U.S.cogic.india@yahoo.com.

Good Shepherd Church Of God In Christ Celebrates Pastor's 20th Anniversary in Ministry

Baltimore, MD—On October 23, 2009 the members of the Good Shepherd Church Of God In Christ will celebrate the 20th Year of Ministry of Superintendent and First Lady Tony W. Torrain at Martin's West in Baltimore, MD. Under the leadership of Supt. Torrain, the Good Shepherd church ministers to the needs of the community through feeding and other community outreach. The guest speaker is General Board Member, the Honorable Bishop Frank O. White.

South Africa Department of Women Holds 5th Women's Convention

Mother Monica Mngadi, Jurisdictional Supervisor, South Africa (Bishop Carlis Moody) announces the 5th National Women's Convention for South Africa, October 1-3, 2009 at the Kimberly Church Of God In Christ. Convention Highlights: Musical Extravaganza, Women's Day and Workshops. Contact Mother Mngadi at 073 602 6392.

Greetings from the National Prayer and Bible Band President

Indianapolis, IN—As the Department of Women anticipates its 2011 Centennial, the Department's first auxiliary founded by Mother Lizzie Robinson, is still an important part of the min-

istry. Mother Georgia L. Henson, National Prayer and Bible Band President again offers leaders the Prayer and Bible Band Handbook for a perspective on its history and organizational structure. At the demise of Mother Sanders, she was appointed by Mother Emma Crouch in April 1996. At that time she felt that a Prayer and Bible Band Handbook would encourage state and local presidents in their work, "The Prayer and Bible Band is a ministry that has been and is so beneficial. It is a good vehicle for the older women to reach out in love to the younger women...prayer and learning the Word is good for the saints' spiritual growth." If you would like a copy please write to her at 7068 Portland Square, Indianapolis, IN or call 317.387.0379.

Exciting Things Are Happening in Alaska!

Anchorage, AK--In December Elder and Mrs. Joe Gibbons will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Mother Mable Gibbons is the Supervisor of the State of Alaska. "I will wear the same gown that I wore fifty years ago when I walked the aisle toward the debonair and handsome man!" she said. "It's the same gown my daughter wore for her wedding 25 years ago. My daughters will be my matron and maids of honor." They will renew their vows at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage. Bishop C.D. Williams will officiate.

Mother Gibbons also reports that Alaska is in for a treat when they celebrate the 90th birthday of Bishop C.D. Williams, February 22, 2010. "We're going to do a big job," said Mother Gibbons, "and we're sending invitations to all bishops, supervisors and whoever would like to come to Alaska to this exciting event." She envisions that when all the Church Of God In Christ saints arrive, it will be the greatest event Alaska has seen!

For information call Mother Gibbons at 907.338.6395.

Dr. Terrence Rhone takes Team to Philippines on Medical Mission

Pomona, CA—For the last four years Dr. Terrence Rhone and the Mt. Sinai Church Of God In Christ team of ministers, missionaries, health-care professionals and laity has visited the province of Pampange, Philippines in an evangelic medical missions proj-

ect. In Angela City the group partners with Bishop Foto, the Prelate of the Churches Of God In Christ in the Philippines. This year they held the AIM convention at the local church, then healthcare professionals and lay workers went into several impoverished communities to evangelize in their mobile medical clinic. The team typically ministers to approximately 100 patients. Dr. Rhone states that their goal is to see 1500 patients.

Dr. Rhone is issuing a call to "anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and work for the Lord in the mission field for one week. We need Sunday School teachers, youth workers, children's ministry workers, nurses, medical assistants, ministers and missionaries. If you don't fit any of these categories, believe me there is a place for you. All you need is a willing mind and a heart of compassion." If you can't go, donations are always welcome!

Contact Dr. Rhone by writing to Mt. Sinai COGIC, 936 West Ninth Street, Pomona, California 91766 or call 909.868.0224.

International Usher Department Honors New President

Missionary Dorothy Holmes, who has served as Interim President of the International Usher Department since 2007, was appointed President by Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake in April 2009. Her driving principle has been to work as a true servant and to that end she has worked as an usher for over 40 years, thirty five of which has also been in the National work. Missionary Holmes is a member of the Providence Church Of God In Christ in High Point, North Carolina under the leadership of Pastor Marshall Newsome. An inaugural banquet will be held in her honor November 7, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the MATA Central Station, 4500 South Main Street, Memphis, TN (at the G.E. Patterson entrance.) For information contact Margie Scott, Director of Events/Vice President, Int'l Usher Board, 225.752.3430 or 225.892.4459.

Sunday Set to Release New CD

Over six years ago, in response to the leading of God, Erika, Amber and Krystal combined their stellar vocals and traveled from coast to coast as "100% Cotton."

Many doors of opportunity have been opened and God has

graciously granted the wisdom necessary to know which ones to walk through. As such, they have changed their name to Sonday and developed Aleilyn, LLC, a limited liability corporation, in order to properly demonstrate their spiritual integrity, family values and work ethics.

While Sonday represents a new sound in Urban Contemporary Gospel Music, they are remarkably skilled and anointed in their renderings of the traditional music in which they were raised. Their ability to passionately combine their heritage with their destiny through soulful harmonies, relevant lyrics and the message of the Gospel is sure to impact the music industry and bless the world. Sonday is poised to release their first full-length CD and video in the fall of 2009 with four subsequent releases through 2014 by having secured distribution and marketing through Black Smoke Music Worldwide in virtually every Wal-Mart and major music retailer throughout the United States. As a prelude, they have released a single on Kerry Douglas' Gospel Mix Volume III entitled "Steppin' Up."

Contact Sonday by emailing Arnetta L. Cotton at atteng@yahoo.com, calling 918.485.4120 or visiting www.myspace.com/1Sonday.

Information on Foreign Missionary Workers Requested

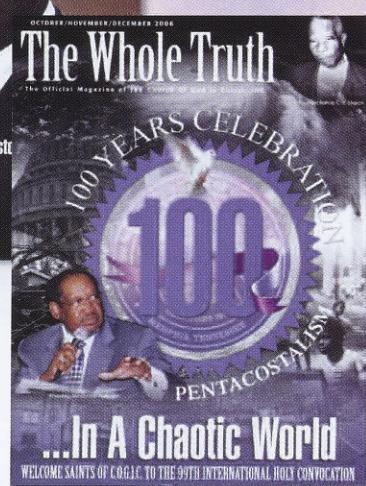
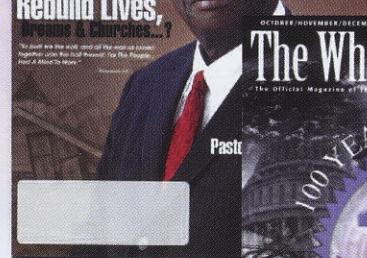
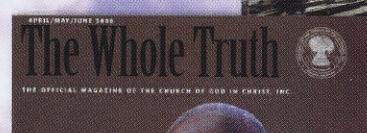
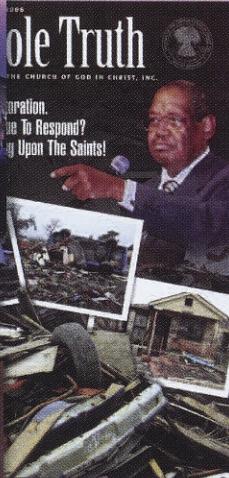
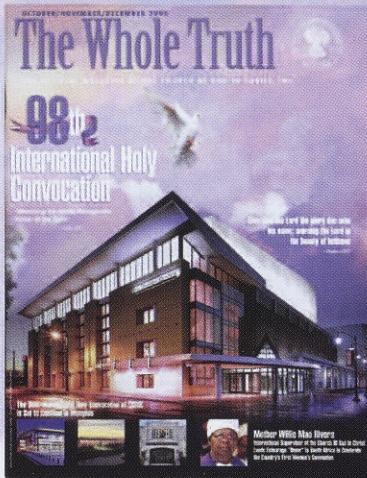
Evangelist Glenda Goodson is seeking oral histories, documents, booklets, pamphlets, etc. on the work of pioneers in foreign missions from the early 1920s to 1970. Please contact her or forward a copy of the information. Each person will receive credit for their contributions to this important research. Additionally, if any person having information on pioneers used in the gift of laying on of hands and healing (such as St. Samuel, Elder S.H. Jones and others), you are requested to forward it. You may write to P.O. Box 36, Lancaster, TX 75146. Call 972.227.9451; email GlendaGoodson@aol.com.

Off the Shelf

Church Of God In Christ writers are diverse and creative in getting their message across in prose and words set to music. *The Whole Truth* continues to celebrate some of our best.

(continued on page 36)

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COGIC APPOINTS MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Dr. Elton Amos, M. D.



Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake of the Church Of God In Christ has a concern for the membership of his organization. There are many demands upon clergyman to provide ministry and support to local congregations whenever members become sick or hospitalized, as well as initiatives from the government that indicate our nation is in medical crisis. There are many initiatives spearheaded by the United States Health Department that have prompted Bishop Blake to point an ordained clergyman who is a practicing physician to head up the Church's health and wellness campaign. Dr. Elton Amos, M. D. has been named Medical Director for the Church Of Health Ministry Services. It is hoped his appointment will usher in a new period of health and call into play the vast resources and medical personnel who are members of the Church Of God In Christ.

Pastor Amos was raised in the Church Of God In Christ, and lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is fluent in German and Spanish, and his medical and ministerial careers have been a unique blend of professional and ministerial vocation. He is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1984, ordained in ministry in 1986, and successfully conducted medical practice while pastoring since 1990. Dr. Amos is also currently serving the state of Indiana as Medical Director for institutional ministries serving the state's incarcerated population. Dr. Amos is married to Edna,

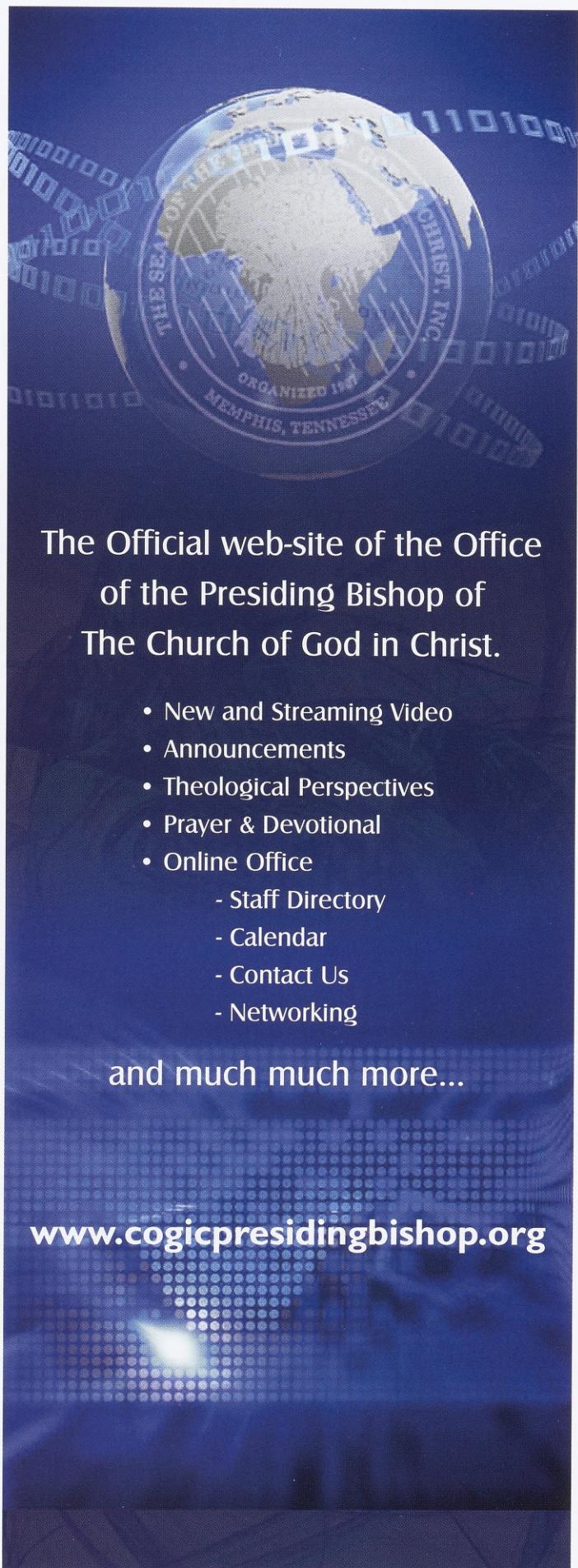
and together they have two sons and one daughter. The ministry in Fort Wayne is thriving, and together they have successfully planted a new church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Church Of God In Christ has a continued legacy in spiritual growth and development of people in America and sixty other countries around the world. The Church has many qualified health professionals who daily provide medical services to the public at large, and within the context of their own churches. Bishop Charles Blake wants to draw together the personnel and medical professionals from across the country to help strengthen the Church's medical and social service approach in ministry. Being a Holiness-Pentecostal organization does not preclude the need of good medical information and services to our membership. The Church finds that a combination of medical awareness and prayer life together improves and supports the health and wellness of COGIC members.

Although the Church Of God In Christ is a large denomination and concerned about the health of its members, there is a reality it cannot deny. The Church is a predominantly African-American organization. African-Americans die disproportionately from vascular and heart diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases, AIDS, diabetes and obesity. The appointment of Pastor Amos is designed to sharp-

en the focus of pastors throughout the organization to the need for developing better conditions and information to promote health in the local churches. Some of the realities that befall the African-American population of America are likewise witnessed in the population of the Church Of God In Christ. The Church is concerned also about the White, Asian, and Hispanic people that are likewise members.

For the Church to take a serious approach to the medical and general health of its membership, the creation of a department of health and wellness was essential. Under this organization, Dr. Amos has been charged to enlist support from private health care agencies and companies like pharmaceutical firms and foundations that will provide information and support to local congregations. It is hoped that the Church will benefit from greater health awareness. Clearly, another benefit will be that physicians and health professionals will be recognized and appreciated for their service within the Church. Secondly, the Church Of God In Christ will find added values to its many conferences and church meetings where specialists and medical professionals can directly address issues of convention goers, and supply information they can take home to local parishioners. There will also be a church-wide international health and wellness ministry that will be promoted via the Church's website as a part of the general Church Of God In Christ effort to output health information. Dr. Amos stated, "There are numerous doctors and nurses within the Church Of God In Christ and we need to get together. The creation of a network of medical professionals is essential to creating a program worthy of the vision given our Presiding Bishop. We indeed can increase the level of awareness, and provide service and medical support to local churches across the brotherhood." In relation to his current ministerial activities, Dr. Amos is yet committed to serving the two congregations that he is currently involved, and believes that preaching the gospel with a message of health is equally important as prescription of medications and health lifestyle. He said, "Jesus provided healing hands and healing words. This proved to be the greatest combination in recorded history. I believe with this move, the Church Of God In Christ can do the same for our churches as well as the larger community wherever the Church is located." 



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(continued from page 33)

Texas Central Metropolitan Supervisor Designee Gladys Ross, (Bishop Designee Hewett Richardson, Sr.) is off to a good start with a new offering for her women and any who wish to build closer relationship with the Lord. Her handbook, "The Why, Who, What, When, Where and How to Pray" is chock full of information on organizing strategic groups for prayer. The book includes an around the clock schedule, topics such as *How Should I Pray, How Not to Pray, What Hinders Prayer, the Types of Prayer* and much more inspire those seeking new insight into this much desirous dimension of the Christian's life. Call Mother Ross at 713.676.1175 or 713.822.8606 to purchase your copy.

The biography, *Golden Asro Frinks: Tell the Unsung Song* was written by his daughter Dr. Goldie Frinks Wells and Crystal Sanders as a testament to the work of this Civil Rights activity. It is telling that the Foreword is written by Ambassador Andrew Young who reflects that "My friend...affectionately called "The Great Agitator"...began his journey peacefully as he led a group of students through the tumultuous era of 1956 and continued throughout the Civil Rights struggle."

Dr. Wells has done America a tremendous service in allowing us to follow this, the first Field Secretary to Dr. Martin Luther King, from his beginning in the small town of Wampee, SC, to the hair raising danger he was exposed to because he believed in equality for all, to the end of his life in 2004. Although he has been promoted, because he "came up the hard way" we will never forget that we, too, must still come forward until all of those who wish to have a better life are afforded the opportunity.

To order your copy, please contact Dr. Wells at www.sellingtheunsungsong.bookscape.com. I am a strong advocate of COGIC adherents defining themselves through the written word and a new book out of Tacoma is an example of spreading the good news of what God has done through all of His people.

In *The Journey* former journalist Mildred A. Penton-Grayson chronicles the journey of the Church condescendingly called "the church on the move" and "the mobile church" to the vibrant congregation located in a beautiful sanctuary. Penton-Grayson shares testimonials of members loyal to the God-given vision of their leader, scriptural references and recollections of some of the seven Caucasian members who prayed for God to send them a

leader in this 21st century story of God's faithfulness.

For copies of the book contact Penton-Grayson through their website www.rooseveltheights.com.

In LaNelle Tate's book, *What My Heart Longs to Say*, she uses poetry and inspirational essays to share her healing to those needing open and honest dialogue in their own restoration journey. Renderings such as *Why Do I Call You?* and *Celebrate* will delight you. I especially like the way her narratives show that with God's help, individuals can be accountable and responsible in order to succeed in life. To that end, *He's Not Your Daddy* gives pause for those who wish to deal with the residue of hurt from the absence of a parent which can impact their own marriage.

To order write visionarys_walk@yahoo.com or phone 254.420.3721. ☎

Willie James Campbell, Evangelism Chairman



Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake appointed Willie James Campbell, President of the Evangelism Department. The International Evangelism Department is part of the AIMS Convention, and is responsible for developing the evangelistic department throughout the Church Of God In Christ. The President of the department has a mandate to organize local, national and international evangelists for an expanded ministry. His tenure in the mode of Presiding Bishop Blake will be one of innovation and technical development.

Elder Campbell is a veteran pastor and evangelist in the Church. He has preached in most cities in America, and before large conventions. He brings new energy, and innovative processes to the Evangelism Department. Along with him is International Elect Lady, Rita Womack, and Assistant International Chairlady, Elect Lady Dorinda Clark Cole. They make up a holy trinity of gifted speakers, tremendous singers, and persons with deep spiritual insight.

Pastor Campbell invites all interested parties who want to affiliate with the Evangelism Department to do so in the local jurisdictions. He is encouraging those with questions to write him at 640 West 118th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60628.

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COGIC Pastor Inducted Into HBCU of Fame

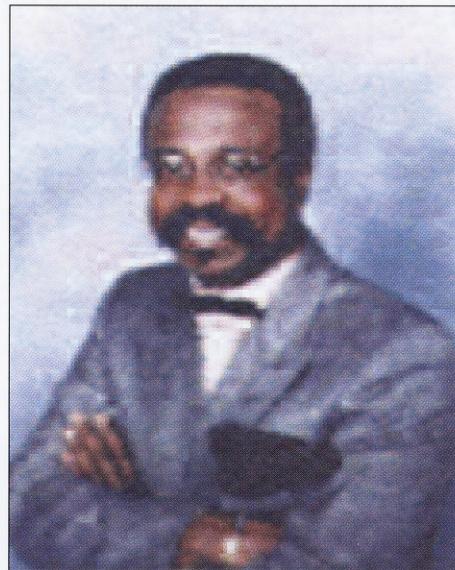
Logan H. Westbrooks, Pastor of Faith Temple Azusa was recently inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame, during the 24th Annual Hall of Fame Conference, September 24-27, 2009 at Hyatt Regency, Atlanta. Westbrooks acknowledged, "This is truly a tremendous honor to be included amongst such distinguished company.

Nine other eminent honorees were selected by the Board of Directors of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. to celebrate their accomplishments at the Signature Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Other honorees in past years include Reverend Dr. Cameron M. Alexander, Bishop Eddie L. Long, Reverend Dr. Floyd Flake, Bishop T. D. Jakes, Reverend Dr. William W. M. Flipper, Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley, and Dr. Barbara Lervis King."

Pastor Westbrooks, a Business Administration graduate of Lincoln University of Jefferson City, Missouri, was nominated by his alma mater for his exceptional achievements in the field of Business and Industry, and his outstanding support of his community and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Early in Westbrooks' career, he was among a new era of pioneering African American record executives who were educated, street smart and business savvy. His accomplishments in this arena are legendary, resulting in associations with many notable entertainers and movers and shakers in the entertainment industry.

He was directly involved in marketing and promoting hundreds of recording artists and highly instrumental in the compilation of over 25 platinum and gold records from artists such as Isaac Hayes, Harold Melvin & the



Pastor Logan H. Westbrooks

Blue Notes, Johnny Mathis, Sly Stone, Herbie Hancock, Earth Wind & Fire, Miles Davis, Cannonball Adderley, Nancy Wilson, Chuck Brown and Nelly.

CBS International tapped Westbrooks to conduct market research and evaluate investment opportunities for CBS International in developing countries and all of Africa. In doing so, Westbrooks became a link between the two continents, resulting in special associations with the President of Senegal, Dr. Sedar Senghor and his successor, Abdou Diouf. In addition to business ventures, Westbrooks served as a professor at California State University for several years and authored a book, "The Anatomy of a Record Company."

Eventually, Westbrooks was appointed Ambassador for Africa for the Annual African Music Festival for Education in Senegal, West Africa, and has been featured in numerous documentaries on soul music. In 2007, Westbrooks appeared on the PBS production, "Respect Yourself," which documents the origin of the Stax's record label.

Pastor Logan H. Westbrooks is the Executive Secretary of the Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southern California, COGIC serving at the pleasure of Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth. He resides in Sherman Oaks, California with his wife of 43 years, Geri. ☩

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

FINDING FREEDOM IN THE PROMISED LAND

G. E. PATTERSON

You Call Yourself A Christian.

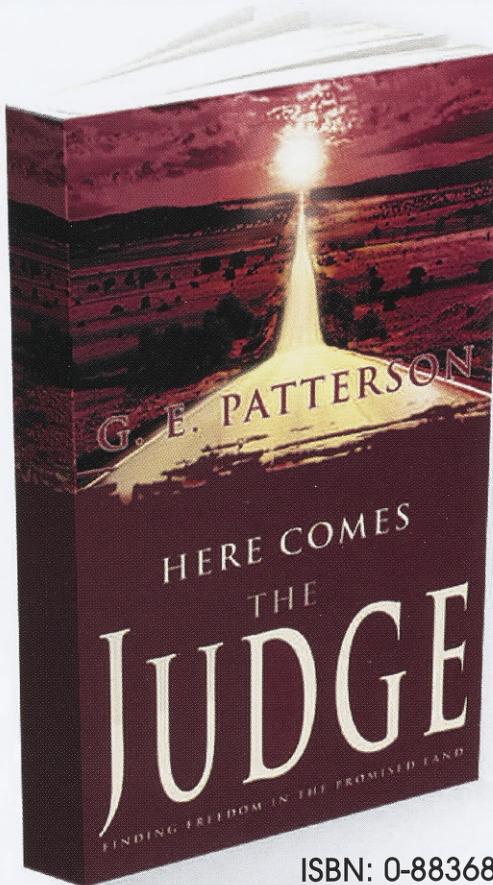
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G. E. Patterson challenges you to let Christ break the shackles of low self-esteem, poverty, and spiritual dryness off your life. Open your heart to His righteous judgments, and you will find His offer of forgiveness, grace, and new freedom! With Jesus the Deliverer on your side,

you are the only person who can prevent your freedom.



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Temple of Deliverance Burns the Mortgage



Bishop Blake congratulates Pastor Hawkins as the mortgage burns.

On a beautiful Saturday morning in September, 2009, the faithful saints of Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ gathered for a mortgage burning ceremony. The event was graced with the presence and preaching of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake. The congregation and pastor, Superintendent Milton Hawkins welcomed the charismatic leader of the Church Of God In Christ to officially do the honors. Evangelist Louise Patterson, widow of the late founder, Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson was there and offered meaningful words about the significance of the event. She was there in 1975 and attended the opening of the ministry at 547 Mississippi Blvd. She watched the "White and Gold Building" erected and soon became too small for the growing congregation. She witnessed the building of the new 13.5 million dollar edifice that opened May 30, 1999. For her, this event was the fruit of her late husband's passion for ministry.

Superintendent Hawkins, the current pastor, has successfully carried on in the faith and tradition of the ministry. He and First Lady Catherine are committed to the continued growth and development of what is the second largest congregation in the Church Of God In Christ. Pastor Hawkins appreciates the words of his late Uncle, "Temple of Deliverance is the premier venue of the South!" The legacy and faith he stepped into is awesome and inspiring. Therefore, ten years after Bishop

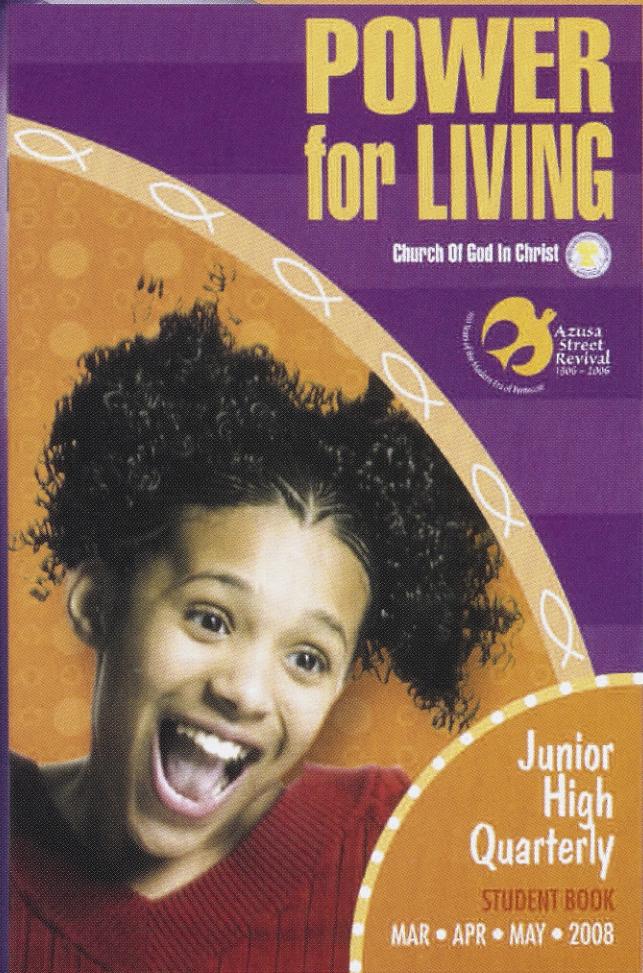
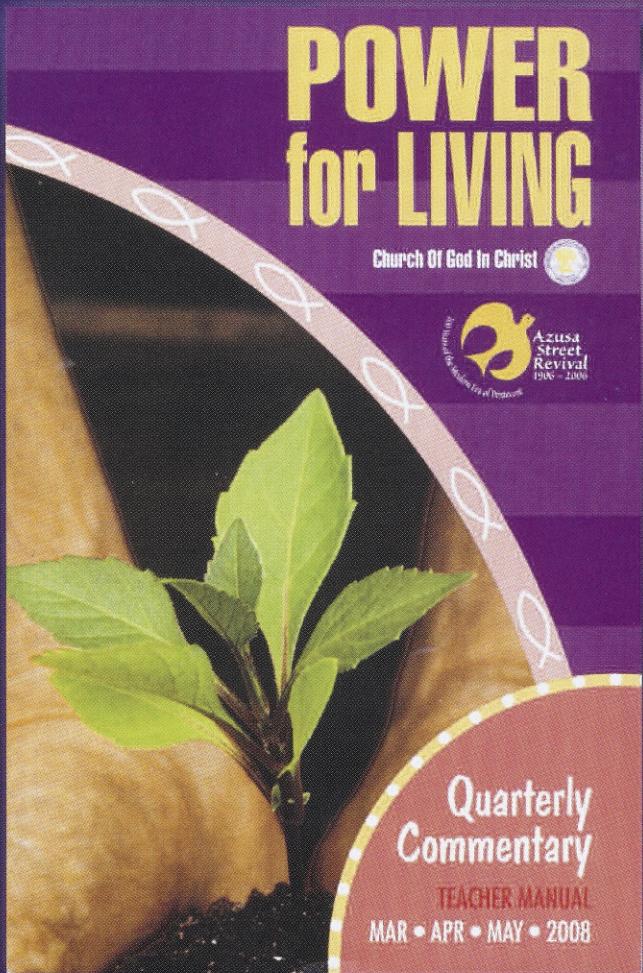
Patterson and the saints built the building, Superintendent Hawkins and the membership paid it off and burnt the mortgage. SunTrust Bank financed the note and was enjoying the \$100,000.00 monthly mortgage payment. Since the new building was erected, the congregation added a splendid Family Life Building named in honor of Bishop G.E. Patterson. That building has an indoor walking track, arcade, NBA size basketball court, bowling alley, and commercial kitchen. The entire campus is being used to promote the Kingdom of God.

The celebration for the mortgage burning was conducted September 24-26. Pastor Hawkins brought in a mixture of colleagues who knew and performed ministry during the life of the late founder. Bishop Paul Morton, Bishop Jerry Maynard, Pastor Rance Allen and Presiding Bishop Charles Blake provided the preaching. The entire program of worship was spiritual and meaningful to everyone in attendance. At the official service there was a sense of victory and yet sadness that the late G.E. Patterson was not there. September 22, 2009 would have been his 70th birthday. Still, his nephew and his best friends and lovely wife were there to finish the task. The container was prepared and the significant persons of the day stood and symbolically burned the mortgage to the glory of God! ☩

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A PRAYER BY

Bishop Charles Harrison Mason



*Jesus, everyday, the word of Him calling,
the gift of God working, everywhere He's calling
giving us to come and see the word
of His wonders here with these.*

*Heal the sick ones and give these saying Yes, to God.
I will Lord, I will Lord, I will glorify your name,
I, will say I will.*

*The mind of God in Christ,
the Word of God in Christ,
the wisdom of God In Christ
confirming His Word here.*

Woman, Jesus deliver you, cast the devil out!

Heal the sick everywhere.

Heal here, heal everywhere.

Heal! Heal today!

*The Word of your wonder, heal!
The Word of your will, heal!*

The gift of your name cast out devils.

*The everywhere of God!
The wonder of Him here today.*

Jesus here and everywhere!

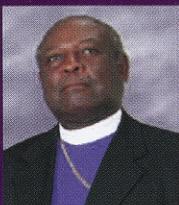


Photo by Keith Little



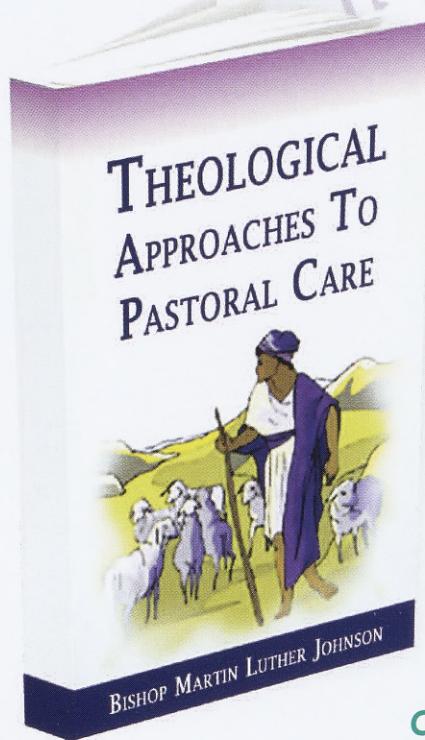
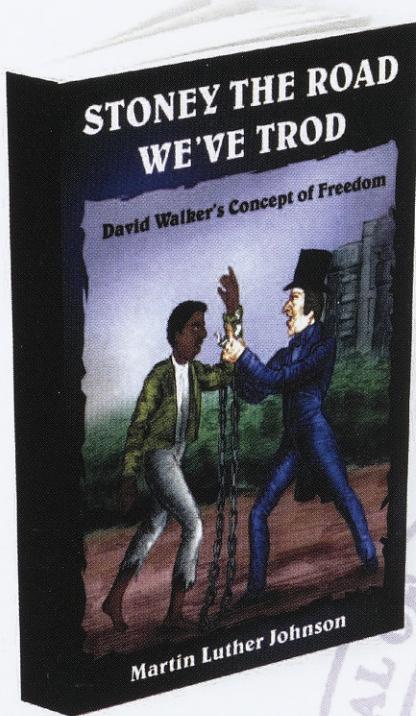
Church Of God In Christ

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By Bishop Martin Luther Johnson



Stoney The Road We've Trod

Convinced that the final chapter about the life of David Walker had not been written, Dr. Johnson presents a constructive and provocative approach to the life and struggles of this man. His approach gets to the core of American racism and presents a challenge to future generations to pursue clarifications of, and answers to, the inconsistency between enslavement by white Americans and Christianity's message of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in this book is the urging to re-read Black history specifically, and American history in general, in an effort to arrive at a point of creative and positive dialogue. Because theological themes of racism, liberation, and social justice are pervading focusses of the work, one must get in touch with the Jesus of History in order to get a better grasp of the Christ of Faith. One must come to grips with who Jesus is and experience a deeper undergirding of the reality of Him in order to understand the meaning and purpose of total and complete liberation. Jesus Christ is tantamount to liberation and reconciliation of persons, but total reconciliation is predicated upon repentance of the persons, systems, and institutions responsible for the original alienation.

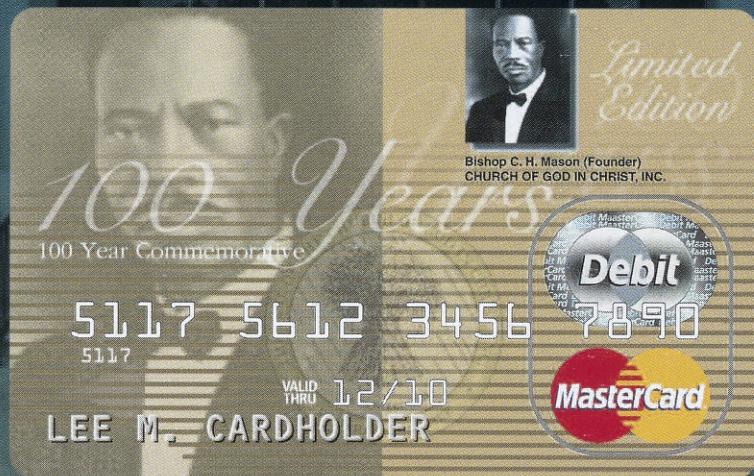
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Martin Luther Johnson is the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Church of God In Christ, New Jersey, and a retired Colonel from the United States Army. He is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University; The Interdenominational Theological Center; The University of Central Texas; New York University, where he completed the course work for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Religious Education (ABD); the United States Basic Course and the Advanced Course; the Command and General College; and The International Seminary (Ph.D.).

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